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RATIONALIST

WEEKLY

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Proprietor & Editor G. R. JOSYER, M.A.,F.R.E.S.

Vol XXXVI No. 51] Monday 2-1-1978 [Price NP. 0-10

Dear Mr. Josyer, Hastings, Sussex,

I have just received your second letter and pamphlet. England, 22-11-77

I feel that both these letters are so very pleasant and welcoming, that I must write a small personal letter back in thanks to you.

First, I am obviously looking forward to the "Vymanika Sastra" and "Sanskrit Wisdom," which I shall read with interest. I hope and expect that it will arrive about Christmas time.

First I am deeply sorry to hear of the terrible storm devastation to your fair land and fearful deathtoll. As you will probably realise I am Christian (currently studying under the Jehovah's Witnesses), and so look forward to the coming of Jesus & the rule of "Our father" (yes, your and mine, for He is the Creator and loving Father by whatever name you call him). I am convinced that the time is very close, certainly WITHIN the next 20 or 25 years, when God shall wipe away all tears, then these terrible things shall be no more. I wish you well, & despite your years I hope you'll live to see that Great Day I expect that somewhere in your teaching and faith you too look forward to a similar time on the earthly plane.

Cherio for now & many thanks.

J. A. Clarke.

महाभारतमें यान्त्रिक पोत एवं विमान

पुण्यभूमि भारतवर्षका एक गौरवपूर्ण युग वह भी था, जब कि यहाँ बसनेवाली आर्यजाति केवल समुद्र-यात्रा ही नहीं करती थी बल्कि उसने भारत-महासागरके तटप्रदेशमें तथा विदेशोंमें उपनिवेश भी स्थापित किये थे, और उनपर अपना आधिपत्य कायम किया था। अतिप्राचीन कालसे बारहवीं शताब्दीपर्यन्त आर्यलोग समुद्र-पथसे भ्रमण किया करते थे। इसके बाद जब देशपर यवनोंका अधिकार होना आरम्भ हुआ, तभीसे हिंदुओंके लिये समुद्रयात्रा निषिद्ध कर दी गयी। प्रसिद्ध पुरातत्त्वविद् डा० बुहलरने हिंदूशास्त्रोंकी आलोचना करके समुद्रयात्राके सम्बन्धमें लिखा है—

"During the time when Hindu rulers were strong, travelling beyond the sea and living in foreign countries was not forbidden. Numerous Sanskrit inscriptions in Champa, Kamboja, in Java and Sumatra tell us that Hindus conquered these countries, and held them from the second century of the Christian era downwards until the 12th century. Temples of Siva and Vishnu were built there, the Vedas, the Puranas and the Bharata were recited in these distant regions; among settlers were numerous Brahmins."—Dr. Buhler in the Bombay Gazette, 1890.*

* जब हिंदू राजा बलवान् थे, उन दिनों समुद्रयात्रा तथा भारतेतर देशोंमें रहना निषिद्ध नहीं था। चम्पा, कम्बोज, जावा और सुमात्रामें अनेकों ऐसे संस्कृतके शिलालेख मिलते हैं, जिनसे यह पता चलता है कि हिंदुओंने इन देशोंको जीतकर ईसवी सनकी दूसरी शताब्दीसे लेकर बारहवीं शताब्दीतक अपने अधीन रक्खा था। वहाँ शिव और विष्णुके मन्दिर बनवाये गये थे और इन सुदूर देशोंमें वेद-पाठ तथा पुराण और महाभारतकी कथाएँ होती थीं। वहाँ जो लोग जाकर बसे थे, उनमें बहुत-से ब्राह्मण भी थे।

महाभारत-कालमें भी भारतीय वणिक् सामुद्रिक वाणिज्यद्वारा विशेष लाभवान् एवं महाधनवान् हो गये थे। विशेष धन-लाभके लिये ही वे असीम साहस दिखलाकर सामुद्रिक वाणिज्यमें अग्रसर हुए थे, इसका प्रमाण भी महाभारतमें मिलता है। (क) उन्हें समुद्रयात्रामें अनेक विपत्तियोंका सामना करना पड़ता था और एक द्वीपमें जाते हुए नावके भग्न हो जानेपर अन्य द्वीपमें पहुँचकर उनकी प्राण-रक्षा होती थी। (ख) इस समय भी जिस प्रकार एक जहाजके भग्न हो जानेपर समीपवर्ती दूसरे जहाजके नाविक भग्न जहाजके यात्रियोंको अपने जहाजमें शरण देकर उनकी प्राणरक्षा करते हैं, उसी प्रकार उस युगमें भी होता था। (ग)

महाभारतके समयमें हमें 'यन्त्रयुक्त' पोतका भी सन्धान मिलता है। जतुगृहदाहके समय कुन्तीके साथ पञ्च-पाण्डवोंकी रक्षा करनेके लिये विदुरने गुप्त-

(क) वणिग् यथा समुद्राद् वै यथार्थं लभते धनम्।
तथा मर्त्यार्णवे जन्तोः कर्मविज्ञानतो गतिः॥
(शान्तिपर्व)

(ख) मिन्ननौका यथा राजन् द्वीपमासाद्य निर्वृताः।
भवन्ति पुरुषव्याघ्र नाविकाः कालपर्ययेः॥
(द्रोणपर्व)

'विप्लवग् वातहता रुग्णा नौरिवासीन्महार्णवे।'
वणिजो नावि मिज्जायामगाधे सुप्लवा यथा।
अपारे पारमिच्छन्तो हते द्वीपे किरीटिना॥
(कर्णपर्व)

(ग) निमज्जतस्तानथ कर्णसागरे विपन्ननावो वणिजो यथार्णवात्।
ददृशिरे नौमिरिवार्णवाद्रयैः सुकल्पितैर्द्रौपदिजाः समागतान्॥ (कर्णपर्व)

भावसे जो नौका भेजी थी, वह 'मनोमारुतगामिनी', 'सर्ववातसहा', 'पताकिनी' एवं 'यन्त्रयुक्ता' कहकर विशेषित हुई है। (घ) बहुत संभव है कि इस प्रकारके 'सर्ववातसह', 'मनोमारुतगामी' पोतपर चढ़कर ही भारतीय आर्य वणिक् भारत महासागर एवं प्रशान्त-महासागरकी यात्रा किया करते थे। जिन सब पोतों-पर आरोहण करके वणिक्गण समुद्रयात्रा करते थे, उनमें एक प्रकारके पोतको 'यानपात्र' या 'यानपात्रक' कहते थे। इसी 'यानपात्र' को आज भी चीनीलोग 'यानक' नामसे व्यवहार करते हैं। (ङ)

महाभारतकालीन 'मनोमारुतगामिनी', 'सर्ववात-सहा', 'यन्त्रयुक्ता' नौकाकी बात सुनकर बहुत-से पाठक आश्चर्य करेंगे। किन्तु इसमें आश्चर्य करनेकी कोई बात नहीं है। 'रामायण' में पुष्पक विमानकी बात प्रायः सब लोग जानते हैं। भगवान रामचन्द्र लक्ष्मण, सीता और वानर-सैन्यके साथ उस पुष्पक रथपर सवार होकर सुदूर लंकासे अयोध्या आये थे। वह विमान या वैहायस यानके रूपमें परिचित था। इस पुष्पक विमानको लोग कवि-कल्पना समझते थे, किन्तु यूरोपमें अब वायुयानका बहुत प्रचार होनेसे पुष्पक विमानको कवि-कल्पना कहना उचित नहीं कहा जासकता। विश्वकर्माद्वारा रचित शिल्पशास्त्रमें पुष्पक-निर्माणका प्रसंग आया है। इसके अनुसार विश्वकर्माने ही सबसे पहले इस यानका निर्माण किया था। 'वह वाष्पयोगसे चालित, अविच्छेद गतियुक्त, वायुवत् कामगामी, एवं नाना उपकरणयुक्त था।' (च) महाभारतमें शाल्वराजके वैहायस यानका भी उल्लेख है। विश्वकर्मा-रचित शिल्पसंहितामें लिखा है कि वृष्णिवंशके साथ वैरका बदला लेनेके लिये राजा शाल्वने 'तमोधाम', 'कामग' यान प्रस्तुत कराया था—जो इच्छानुसार भूमि, आकाश, गिरिशिखर एवं जलमें चल सकता था। (छ)

उपर्युक्त विवरणसे यह स्पष्ट है कि प्राचीन कालसे ही भारतवासी नाना प्रकारके वाष्प-चलित पोतों एवं विमानोंका व्यवहार जानते थे, किन्तु इस सब्य बहुव्यय-साध्य होनेके कारण जनसाधारणमें इनका व्यवहार प्रचलित नहीं हुआ था। भारतीय वणिक् यन्त्रयुक्त एवं सर्ववातसह पोत लेकर सुदूर देशोंमें वाणिज्यके लिये जाया करते थे, इसमें कुछ भी सन्देह नहीं है। अतिप्राचीन कालसे ही भारतवासी पोत-निर्माण एवं पोतपरिचालन-विद्यासे विशेष अभिज्ञ थे। तभी तो आजसे ढाई हजार वर्ष पूर्व चीनसम्राट्द्वारा वे नौवाणिज्यरक्षामें एवं नौकाध्यक्षके पदपर नियुक्त हुए थे।

जे. पि. मिश्र, एम्.ए., बि.एल्.

(घ) ततः प्रवासितो विद्वान् विदुरेण नरस्तदा।
पार्थानां दर्शयामास मनोमारुतगामिनीम्॥
सर्ववातसहां नावं यन्त्रयुक्तां पताकिनीम्।
शिवे भागीरथीतीरे नरैर्बिभ्रमिभिः कृताम्॥
—आदिपर्व

(ङ) Chinese 'Junk'

(च) वाष्पयोगे तु वै यानं चकार विधिनन्दनः।
अविच्छेदगतिर्यच्च वायुवत् कामगामिनम्॥
नानोपकरणैर्युक्तं भास्वन्तं पुष्पकं विदुः॥
(शिल्पसंहिता)

(छ) स लब्ध्वा कामगं यानं तमोधाम दुरासदम्।
ययौ द्वारवतीं शाल्वो वैरं वृष्णिकृतं स्मरन्॥
क्वचिद् भूमौ क्वचिद् व्योम्नि गिरिभृङ्गे जले क्वचित्॥
(शिल्पसंहिता)

SPIRITUALISM

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will see you at about twelve o'clock in the morning in the 'Psychic Bookshop.'" I was advised. The 'Psychic Bookshop' is in the very centre of the British Empire, under the shadow of West-minster Abbey. Elderly ladies and serious looking men come and go therein, searching for the latest "spiritualist food". At the end of the little shop I found Sir Arthur, the leader of the spiritualists, sitting at a little desk writing an article In order not to waste one moment I plunged right away in medias res.

"How long is it," I asked, "since you interested yourself in spiritualism?" "It is now well over thirty years that I began to be interested it," Sir Arthur answered "But at first I attached no more importance to it than to any other exotic thing. I did not realise that it was the one subject in the world which was of extreme, of d sperate importance to every member of the human race. The war came. I understood it then. I had already given my life to the subject before disaster came my own way. I was entering Nottingham Town Hall to lecture on Spiritualism when I got the telegram of my son's death! It was difficult to carry on - but I did. No doubt he helped me through, and the audience never guessed.

It was a year latter that he first came through at a Seance. It was his voice—his voice, and an embrace. After that we spoke to him often, discussing intimate family matters. I also saw my mother! I saw her more distinctly than I can see you now. Look here, I got a photograph under test conditions of my son after his death! Here he is. Death? There is no such thing! They are still alive, and trying to make an idiotic world realise it!

"I give all my time and attention to the cause I have set my heart upon," Sir Arthur continued; "and this is the teaching of the new religion which will tell mankind what is to happen in the world that comes after our death. This is really far more important than anything else in life. People are absolutely ignorant of what is going to happen to them after they are dead. Well, I for one do want to know what is going to happen to me. Personally I am more certain of the things which are to happen to me after my death, than I would be of things which would happen to me should I undertake a journey to South America!

"We are doing our best to teach the people this new religion, which will give us a new outlook on life. The people and the country which seriously adopt this new knowledge and live up to it will be the people or the country of the future. We have good and reliable information in our possession, and are trying our very best to make it known to those who are either still hesitating to believe us or absolutely ignorant of our activities. The ignorance of the Clergy, especially of the Bishops, is a public scandal!"

The assurance and sincerity with which Sir Arthur had spoken deeply impressed me. After a brief pause, I asked; "And what do you think of the destiny of the English speaking people?" Sir Arthur seemed perplexed by the suddenness and complexity of this question. "Well, it is not an easy matter to speak about. It is like asking what I think of the Solar system! All I can say is that the English speaking people will sooner or later be ruling the world.

Their ideas rule the world now. Parliaments, trial by Jury, Sport, all big things come from England. Let us hope that this will be for the good of mankind, and for the furthering of peace and civilisation."

"Do you think that the idea of a United States of Europe is realisable?" "Yes, I think it might be possible. But it will be found difficult to make the peoples get rid of their notions about their past history and their national prejudices. It will be even more difficult to make them get used to a new state of things when they are merged in a great and hitherto unknown Entity. I think the League of Nations is a very good framework within which the United States of Europe could gradually be constructed. I belive that the League of Nations may become a real parliament of the whole world. Anyhow, we hope so. The Europe of the future may be something like the British Empire of to-day. Look at our Empire. The various Dominions enjoy absolutely their freedom and independence. This is how various countries of Europe may enjoy sooner or later their independence, and yet each belong to a great entity. For that matter I do not see why all European countries should not come into the commonwealth of the British Empire, and thus solve at once the question of a United States of Europe."

"Do you think that the last break down at Geneva will have serious effects?"

"It is dreadful to think of and it is more regrettable that it is possible that the beautiful spirit of Locarno should have been jeopardised by two or three recalcitrant states. I most earnestly hope, as everybody must who cares for humanity, that at the next meeting at Geneva wiser counsel will prevail. However, in the present state of Europe things are still in a state of flux. No one knows what may happen by to-morrow, and I can only repeat that unless good spirit and wise counsels prevail we may again be drifted into dangerous directions. Bolshevism is a terrible danger. But I think the worst is past. If the dams hold all is well. If they break—!"

"What are your future literary plans?"

"Of course, most of my work is in connection with Spiritualism, and what with this shop, my writings and my lectures it keeps me very busy. I have had exactly ten years of intensive work and I begin to feel the strain. But it is worth it. I may ease up a little now, but it is not easy to leave the battle field while the fight is still going on. As to literature, apart from psychic work I have to make a living, and so I do a few stories now and then. Yes, have done three new Sherlock Holmes stories which will soon appear in the Strand. I don't think they will show any falling off. In fact one of them, 'The Lion's Mane', I should put in the front row. But that's for the public to judge."

Several people were waiting an audience, so I did not care to prolong our interview. "Yes," said Sir Arthur, indicating the folk who waited their turn, "this is not a shop only. It is a soul surgery. They bring their psychic experiences, their hopes and their worries. Sometimes we can help them. Sometimes we can't. But we do our best," and he signalled to the first of the waiting line.

X

MATURITY

The criteria of emotional maturity are:

Having the ability to deal constructively with reality.

Having the capacity to adapt to change.

Having a relative freedom from symptoms that are produced by tensions and anxieties.

Having the capacity to find more satisfaction in giving than in receiving.

Having the capacity to relate to other people in a consistent manner with mutual satisfaction and helpfulness.

Having the capacity to sublimate, to direct one's instinctive hostile energy into creative and constructive outlets.

Having the capacity to love.

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Trivandrum,
26-12-27

From

M. S. Sreedharan,
"Malayala Manorama"
Trivandrum.

Dear Sir,

Please accept my respectful pranams and thanks for sending me the "Vymanika Shastra" and the Rationalist Weekly.

I feel proud to have the book "Vymanika Shastra" in my personal Library.

Further I would like to get a copy of your book "Sanskrit Civilization", for which please imform me how much I should pay.

Sincerey Yours,
M. S. Sreedharan.

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"Malayala Manorama"
Trivandrum.

Dear Sir,

Please accept my respectful pranams and thanks for sending me the "Vymanika Shastra" and the Rationalist Weekly.

I feel proud to have the book "Vymanika Shastra" in my personal Library.

Further I would like to get a copy of your book "Sanskrit Civilization", for which please imform me how much I should pay.

Sincerey Yours,
M. S. Sreedharan.

NICE TREE!

There are many places in the world which still abound with mystery, but none of them with so many mysteries as Madagascar, the third largest island in the world, writes S. B. in Answers.

There are several species of insect devouring plants on the island as well as a rumour hotly or laughingly denied but still current that somewhere on the island there is still the man-eating tree! White men who have persisted in trying to locate it have been met by singularly evasive natives.

This most ghastly freak of nature was last seen by a white man seventy-three years ago. He was an explorer called Carl Liche. Determined to see the phenomenon, he was eventually taken in secret to see the tree by members of the Mkodos tribe, to whom he had been of some service.

His description reads like a page from a horror novel!

The tree's trunk was eight feet high, according to Liche. It was shaped like a pineapple, dark brown in colour and devoid of any branches.

At the top of the trunk was a cup-shaped depression, resting on what looked for all the world like a huge saucer. Growing from underneath the saucer were eight gigantic leaves.

Liche said they were sword-shaped, two feet thick in the middle and at least twelve feel long, with four feet of the tips resting on the ground.

They hung, deep-green in colour, completely lifeless. All over the surface were sharp, thorny protuberances.

Also hanging from the underside of the saucer were hundreds of delicate tendrils, each about seven feet long.

Liche was allowed to see the ceremonial Dance of the Tree, which, rumour says, is still observed.

The natives, accompanied by the monotonous beating of drums, danced round the tree, working themselves up into a frenzy.

At the peak of this they surrounded a naked woman and forced her, at the points of their spears, to dance in narrowing circles to the foot of the tree.

The tempo of the dance speeded up until the natives were swirling wildly round the tree, circling nearer and nearer to the woman until she was forced to climb up the trunk and stood on the edge of the cup-shaped depression at the top.

Liche said that at that moment the tendrils seemed to come to life. They twisted and undulated until they were erect, whirling round her. That was the moment for the dancers to scream "Taik! Taik!" meaning "Drink! Drink!"

The woman, who looked as if she was in a trance, bent down and in her cupped hands drew some fluid from the cup and drank it, while her body contorted in horrible rhythm with the whirling tendrils, which then began to wrap themselves round her body until she was encased.

Then the limp, lifeless leaves slowly awakened. They rose stiffly into the air, as if they were being pulled by invisible cords, until the tips met, twelve feet above the woman. Slowly the edges of the leaves met and began to press inwards until the victim was lost to view.

For ten days the leaves remained in that upright position, and on the eleventh Liche said they reverted to their former, limp position. He went near, and by the foot of the trunk was a white skull—all that was left of the human sacrifice!

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

B. The class of the amukta weapons includes twenty different species :

1. The vajra (thunderbolt) was, according to tradition, made out of the backbone of the sage Dadhici. It keeps its mythical character throughout. Nothing can withstand its splendour, and it was originally made for the destruction of the demon Vrtra. It shines brightly with the light of a krore of suns, and it resembles the fire which shone at the dissolution of the world. Its fangs extend to a yojana (10 miles) in length, and its tongue too is most horrible. It resembles the night of destruction at the end of the world, and is covered with 100 knots. Its breadth amounts to five yojanas and its length to 10 yojanas. Its periphery is covered with sharp points; in color it resembles lightning; a broad strong handle is fixed to it. Its movements are four in number.

2. The ili (hand-sword) is two cubits long, has no hilt for the protection of the hand, and is black colored. The front part of the blade is curved, and it is five fingers broad. Four movements are peculiar to it.

3. The parasu (axe) is a thin stick with a broad mouth. Its face is in front, curved like a half moon, the body is dirty colored, but the face is shining. At the foot end is the handle, and it has a head. Its height is the length of an arm. Its qualities are felling and splitting.

4. The gosirsa (cow-horn spear) is two feet long; it is wooden in the lower parts and iron on the upper part. It has a blade, is of dark metal color, is three-cornered and has a good handle. Its height amounts to 16 thumbs; it is sharp in front and broad in the middle. Indra presented the gosirsa together with a seal to Manu, and the cow-horn spear and the signet-ring became henceforth the emblems of royalty. The gosirsa is handled with four movements.

5. The asidhenu (stiletto) is one cubit long, has no handguard at the handle, is dark colored, has three edges, is two thumbs broad, and is applicable for fighting at near quarters. It is fastened with a waistbelt and is called the sister of the sword. It requires three movements. It is worn by kings.

6. The lavitra (scythe) has a crooked shape, is broad at the back and sharp in front. It is black colored, five thumbs broad and one cubit and a half high. It is provided with a broad handle and is able to cut buffaloes into pieces. It is lifted with both arms and thrown.

7. The astara (scatterer, bumarang) has a knot at the foot, a long head and is a hand broad. Its middle part is bent to the extent of a cubit, it is sharp, black colored and two cubits long. Whirling, pulling, and breaking are its three actions, and it is a good weapon for charioteers and foot soldiers.

The general belief is that the bumarang is a weapon peculiar to the Australians; but this is by no means the case. It is well known in many parts of India, especially in its Southern Peninsula. The Tamilian Maravar and Kallar employ it when hunting and throw it after deer. In the Madras Government Museum are shown three bumarangs, two ivory ones, which came from the armoury of the late Raja of Tanjore, and a common wooden one, which hails from Pudukota. The wood of which the bumarang is made is very dark. I possess four black wooden and one iron bumarang, which I have received from Pudukota. In the

arsenal of the Pudukota Raja is always kept a stock of these sticks. Their name in Tamil is valai tadi (வளை தடி) bent stick, as the stick is bent and flat. When thrown a whirling motion is imparted to the weapon which causes it to return to the place from which it was thrown. The natives are well acquainted with this peculiar fact. The length of the astara or bumarang is not always exactly the same ; the difference amounts often to more than one cubit.

8. The kunta (lance) has an iron body, a sharp top, and six edges. It is six or ten cubits high, and is round at the foot end. It is handled in six ways.

9. The sthuna (anvil) has a red body and many knots standing near to each other, it is as high as a man, and straight. It is whirled and fells the enemy to the ground.

10. The prasa (spear) is seven cubits long and made of bamboo, which is colored red. It has a head made of metal, and is sharp at the foot end; it is adorned with silken tufts. Four movements are prescribed for it. In the Sukraniti it resembles a broad sword.

11. The pinaka or trisula (trident) has three heads, is sharp in front, made of brass, has an iron head, and measures four cubits. It has a tuft made of the hair of a bear, and its neck is ornamented with brass armlets. It is shaken and impales the enemy.

12. The gada (club) is made of sharp iron, has 100 spikes at its broad head, and is covered on the sides with spikes. It is a formidable weapon, four cubits long, and its body equals a carriage axle in measure. The head is adorned with a crest; it is covered with a golden belt, and is able to crush elephants and mountains. Twenty different motions are ascribed to the gada. By means of gunpowder it is thrown out of projectile weapons of various forms.

13. The mudgara (hammer) is small at the foot end, has no face, and is three cubits long. Its color resembles honey, its shoulder is broad, and it weighs eight loads. It has a good handle, is round, black colored, and is a hand in circumference. It is whirled around and fells things to the ground.

14. The sira (ploughshare) is doubly curved, has no head, but an iron-plated front, and crushes the objects with which it comes into contact. It equals a man in height, is of agreeable color, and by means of much dragging it causes persons and things to fall to the ground.

15. The musala (pestle) has naither eyes nor head, neither hands nor feet. It is well joined together at both ends and fells and crushes enemies.

16. The pattisa (battle axe) is of a man's height, has two sharp blades and a sharp top. Its handle has a protection for the hand. The pattisa is generally called the uterine brother of the sword.

17. The maustika (fist-sword, dagger) has a good hilt, is a span long and ornamanted. Its end is sharp, it has a high neck, is broad in the middle and dark colored. It can make all sorts of movements, as it is a small and very handy weapon. Its qualities are enlarged upon by Vaisampayana.

18. The parigha (battering ram) is of a round shape, as big as a palmyra-tree, and of good wood. Experts know, that a whole troop is required to make it move and strike.

19. The mayukhi (pole) is a staff, has a hilt, and is of the height of a man. It is covered with bells, exhibits various colors,

and is provided with a shield as a friend. It is used for striking, for warding off a blow, for killing, for discharging and for attacking.

20. The sataghni (hundred-killer) is provided with thorns, is of black iron, and hard. It looks like a mudgara, is four cubits long, round and provided with a handle. According to Vaisampayana it resembles in all its movements the gada; it was therefore like the gada shot out of other projectile weapons. According to others it is itself a projectile weapon, a great cannon. The name states only its destructiveness, and leaves its nature doubtful; but if it was hurled out of enormous tubes by means of gunpowder; it must have been a very formidable projectile.

These twenty weapons, belonging to the amukta division, are deposited in the second foot of the Dhanurveda.

All these thirty-two weapons were, according to tradition, taken from the body of the sage Dadhici. And this is the way how it happened :—

When the gods had been defeated by the demons in a great battle, which defeat they owed in some part to their insufficient knowledge of the Dhanurveda, they preceived on their flight the great sage Dadhici, who was sitting near the place they passed. To him they entrusted their arms and continued their flight until they reached the high mountain Mandara, under whose bulky body they sought and obtained an asylum. Here they rested for many years, acknowledging Indra as their immediate superior. The sage meanwhile guarded well these weapons, which through his penance had all been changed into spikes, had entered his body and had become his bones. Thus a long time passed away, until the gods became at last anxious to recover once more their lost position and to try another fight with the demo s. In their dejection they appeared before Brahma, the father of all beings, and requested him to help them. Brahma, moved

(to be continued)

"OTHER TIMES, OTHER MANNERS"

In my son's first-year Latin class, the teacher was explaining to her pupils the "changing times and customs", meaning of the phrase "O tempora! O mores!" Approaching the desk of one pupil, she said, "Charles, haven't you ever seen your grandmother throw her hands up and shake her head and cry, 'O tempora! O mores!'?"

"No, miss," Charles solemnly replied. "I don't see my grandmother very often because she runs a petrol station in Walvis Bay!"

At this, the instructor dazedly threw up her hand, shook her head and cried, "O tempora! O mores!"

SPLENDID

An Englishman on holiday in Denmark one summer called at a farm-house to get a drink. Through the open door he saw the farmer's wife sitting in her kitchen, very much occupied. With her left foot she was working the treadle of the butter churn, and with her right the rocker of a cradle containing twins. She was also knitting, and reading a book on her lap.

He made his request and when she rose he saw that she had been sitting on an unusual-looking cushion. He enquired what it was. "Only a cheese," she said, "which I am pressing for export!"

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 8, years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
DESH RAJ SHARMA

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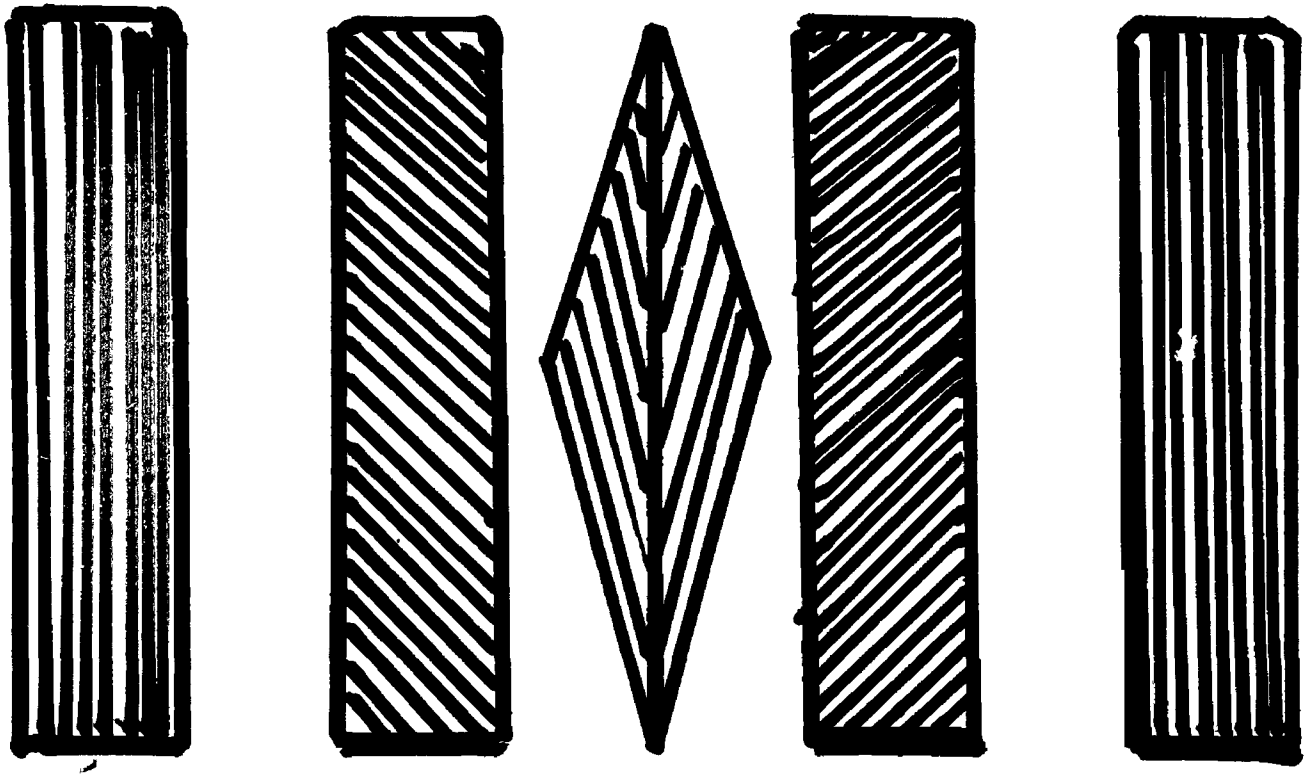

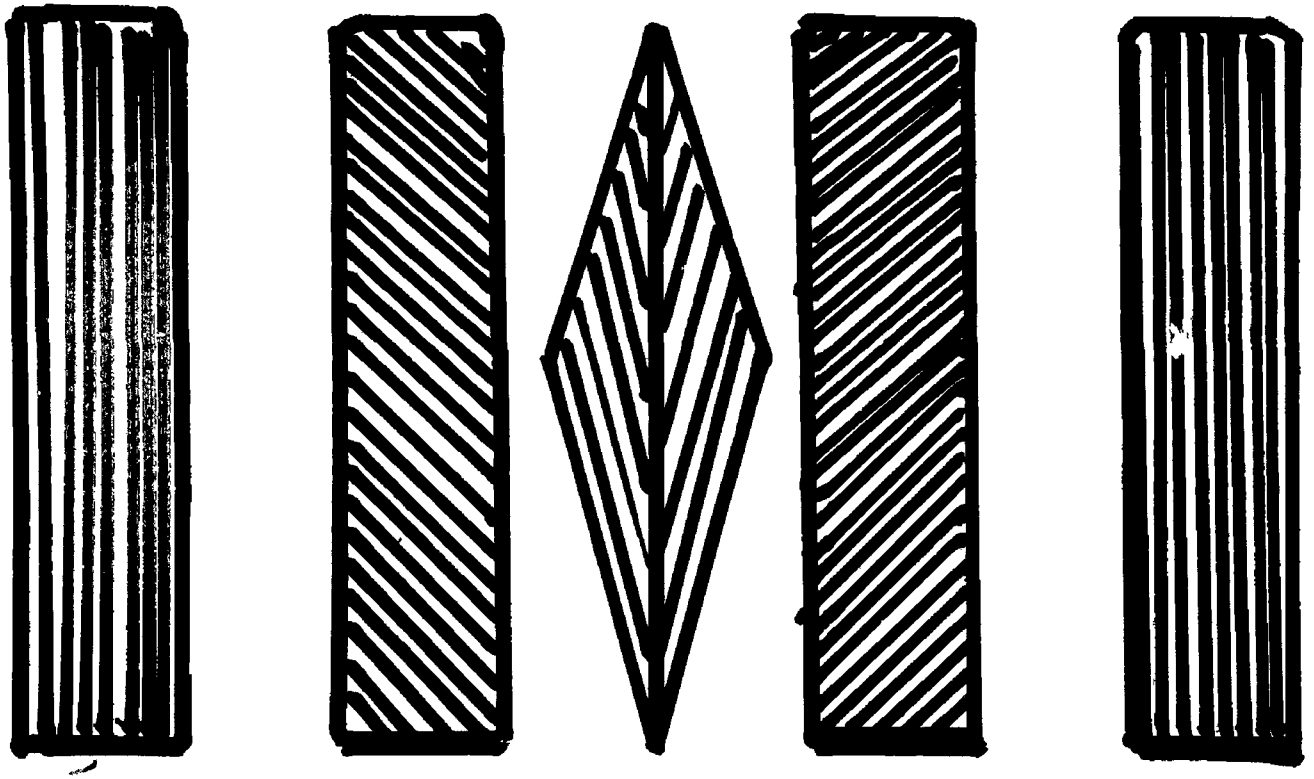

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GOVERNOR'S CALL

Governor Goind Narain today called upon the officers of the State Goverment to put forth their best in the interest of the welfare of the people of Karnataka.

Addressing Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments at Vidhana Soudha, the Governor urged them to be more accessible to the people so that their problems could be attended to promptly. This had greater relevance in the present circumstances as the people's representatives were not there to voice their needs.

An impression should not be created that because of the absence of the people's representatives, their problems would go unheeded.

The Governor stressed the need for punctuality, integrity, quick and impartial decisions. While the Government was fully empowered to review any earlier decision, the Governor made it clear that there would not be any wholesale reversal of the policies and no mudslinging against any one.

He advised that Secretaries and Heads of Departments should see to it that at all levels of adminitstration, officers should be polite, courteous and responsive.

Mr. Narain said that it was his wish that this period of President's Rule should be as brief as possible, and that people's representatives should take over the Government as soon as possible. He complimented the State administration and appealed to the officers to work hard to maintain and improve the traditions and reputation of efficiency built up over these years.

* * *

To talk of efficiency under Governor's Rule is alright. But to talk of efficiency under bought-votes-people's-representatives is delusion! Ed.

THE DRUG !

More than 1,000 babies born in New York every year are heroin addicts at birth because their mothers are using this most dangerous of drugs, according to a report recently submitted by U. N. experts The report also says that an addict pays about $20,000 a year to support his or her habit, and this explains why 35 per cent of thefts in the United States are committed by drug addicts !

ADVANCED !

The West German business newspaper Hadelsblatt has carried the following advertisement: "Depression, declining turnover 100 per cent of our customers have preferred consulting us to committing suicide and declaring themselves bankrupt ! We shall morally arm you. Analytics. Industrial consultation. Psychohygiene. 41 Landwehrstrasse, Munich 2."

JAPAN TOO !

Takashi Sakakibara was last seen in 1972, when he left his office after work. A 48-year-old housewife, unable to pay back a loan,disappeared,some time ago, leaving the following note to her son: "I'll come back when I save the money"". Last year alone some 94,000 Japanese–43 per cent of them young people—"simply evaporated." Most of these people take this extreme step and leave home and family because they cannot find work, refuse to reconcile themselves to the present Japanese way of life, and want of escape from debts.

DRINKING

Alcoholism costs industry in Scotland £100 million a year. A report published by the Scottish Conncil on Alcoholism dispels "the myth that alcoholism is predominantly a shop floor problem." The available evidence indicates that "the prevalence of alcoholism is greater the higher up the management ladder one climbs !"

TESTS

The fight against the law on tests to determine the degree of drunkenness and the amount of alcohol in a driver's blood went on in Ireland for nine years. Though quite lax (it authorized 125 milligrammes of alcohol in a person's blood, and this is much more than in any other West Eropeon country), the law had its opponents and, using all sorts of legal subterfuges, they finally won. They claimed, for instance, that there was a possibility of the cork not being clean and of facts being misrepresented, and that all this could tell on the tests. It apparently produced the desired effect, and now traffic policemen have returned to the "good old method" of making suspects walk the white line !

LUCKY HOSTESSES

The suit brought by dismissed stewardesses against the American Airlines was one of the largest civil rights cases in U S. legal history ! Between 1965 and 1970 the company fired 500 hostesses after they took maternity leave. Although the airlines clearly violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it took the court seven years to pass a ruling in favour of the hostesses !

ಶ್ರೀಮನ್ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ
೧೪೩ನೆಯ ವರ್ಧಂತಿ.

ಶ್ರೀಮನ್ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ ೧೪೩ನೆ ವರ್ಧಂತ್ಯುತ್ಸವಸಮಾರಂಭವು ತಾರೀಖು ೧೦-೯-೧೯೭೭ ನೆ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ ಮೈಸೂರು ಚಾಮರಾಜ ಡಬ್ಬಲ್ ರೋಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿರುವ "ರ್ಯಾಷನಲಿಸ್ಟ್" ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಜಿ. ಆರ್. ಜೋಸ್ಯರ್, ಎಂ.ಎ., ಅವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜೃಂಭಣೆಯಿಂದ ನೆರವೇರಿತು. ಸಭಾಮಂದಿರದ ಹೊರಂಗಣವು ತಳಿರು ತೋರಣಗಳಿಂದಲೂ, ಸಭಾಮಂದಿರವು ಸಮುಚಿತವಾದ ಅಲಂಕಾರಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಶೋಭಾಯಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಇದ್ದವು. ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಪಾರ್ಶ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚ್ಚಪೀಠದಮೇಲೆ ಜಗನ್ಮೋಹನಚಿತ್ರಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ತರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಲೈಫ್‌ಸೈಜ್ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರಪಟವನ್ನು ದಿವ್ಯವಸ್ತ್ರ ದೀಪಮಾಲಿಕೆ ಪುಷ್ಪಮಾಲಿಕೆ ಗಳಿಂದ ಅಲಂಕರಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಸಭಾಂಗಣವು ಅಬಾಲವೃದ್ಧರಾದಿಯಾಗಿ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಪುರುಷರಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿತ್ತು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಕಲಾಪವು ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಗರ್ಲ್ಸ್ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲಿನ ಜಿ. ಉಷಾ ಎಂಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯ ಮಂಗಳಾಚರಣೆಯಿಂದ ಆರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ಅನಂತರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಸಭಿಕರನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿ ಶ್ರೀಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ ಶ್ಲಾಘ್ಯಜೀವನ ಚರಿತ್ರೆಯನ್ನು ಸಭಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸಂಕ್ಷೇಪವಾಗಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಪರಿಚಯಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು :

"ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹನೀಯರೆ,"

ನಾವು ಈ ದಿವಸ ಶ್ರೀಮನ್ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ ೧೪೩ನೇ ಜಯಂತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸಲು ಸೇರಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಈ ಸಮಾರಂಭಕ್ಕೆ ದಯಮಾಡಿಸಿರುವ ತಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸ್ವಾಗತವನ್ನು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರು ೧೭೯೪ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿ, ೪ನೇ ಮೈಸೂರ್ ಯುದ್ಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಟಿಪ್ಪುಸುಲ್ತಾನ್ ಮೃತನಾಗಲು ೧೭೯೯ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿಷಿಕ್ತರಾದರು. ೧೮೧೦ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರು ಇವರ ಮೇಲೆ ದೋಷಾರೋಪಣೆಮಾಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ಇವರಿಂದ ಕಿತ್ತುಕೊಂಡರು.—ಆದರೂ ಮೋಡವು ಮುಸುಕಿದರೂ ತನ್ನ ಕಾಂತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳದ ಸೂರ್ಯನಂತೆ, ಇವರು ೩೬ ವರ್ಷ ಕಾಲ ನಾನಾವಿಧವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಜೆಗಳ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಿ ೧೮೬೭ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಂಧಾಮವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದರು.

೧೮೮೯ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಯದುರಾಯರು ಮೈಸೂರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ಇದು ಒಂದು ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅವರೂ ಅವರ ಅನಂತರದ ರಾಜರೂ ಸಂತ್ಯವಂತ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಗೆದ್ದು ಊರನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದರು. ೧೬೧೦ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜಒಡೆಯರು ಮೈಸೂರನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಶ್ರೀರಂಗಪಟ್ಟಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಲು ಈ ಊರು ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸಿತು. ೧೭೯೯ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಶ್ರೀರಂಗಪಟ್ಟಣವು ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳಗಿತು. ೧೭೯೯ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರು ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜಒಡೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಕಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಊರಿನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ೧೮೬೭ ರವರೆಗೆ ಆ ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಊರು ಜನಭರಿತವೂ ವಿಸ್ತಾರವೂ ಆಗುತ್ತ ಬಂತು. ಕೋಟೆಯ ಒಳಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅರಮನೆಯ ಅಶ್ರಿತರ ಮನೆಗಳು ತುಂಬಿದ್ದವು. ಹೊರಗೂ ಬಾಳೆಅರಸುಲಾಯ, ಚಾಮಪ್ಪಾಜಿಲಾಯ, ಸಂಜೀವರಾಜ ಅರಸುಲಾಯ, ಮುಂತಾದ ಲಾಯಂಗಳೂ ಪಡಾರಗಳೂ, ಕೆರೆಗಳೂ, ತೊಳಗಳೂ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟವು. ಮಹಾರಾಜರು ದೇವೀರಮ್ಮಣ್ಣಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣವಿಲಾಸ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀವಿಲಾಸ ರಮಾವಿಲಾಸ ಕೆಂಪುನಂಜಾಂಬಾ ದೇವಾಂಬಾ ಚೆಲುವಾಂಬಾ ಮುಂತಾದ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿ ಪುಣ್ಯಕಾಲಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಂಜ ಮುಂತಾದ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ದಾನಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಆ ಮಹಾರಾಜರವರ ಔದಾರ್ಯದಿಂದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತ ಬಂದು ಈಗಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರಿಗೆ ಈ ಊರಿನ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳು ಚಿರಋಣಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಜಯಂತಿ ಸಮಾರಂಭವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ದಿನದ ಸಮಾರಂಭಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣಮನವನ್ನು ಕೋರುತ್ತೇನೆ" ಎಂದು ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿದರು.

ಅನಂತರ ೨ ಘಂಟೆಗಳಕಾಲ ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಗರ್ಲ್ಸ್ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲಿನ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯಿನಿಯರುಗಳ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನಾವಿಧವಾದ ಮನೋರಂಜನಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಸಭಿಕರನ್ನು ಮನಸ್ಸಂತೋಷ ಪಡಿಸಿದವು. ಕುಮಾರಿಗಳು—ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಉಷಾ, ಗೀತಾ, ಗೋದಾವರಿ, ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣಾತ, ಮುಯೂರ, ಮೀರಾ, ಲತಾ, ರೇವತಿ. ಮೆಂಜುಳಾ; ಭಾಗ್ಯ, ಎ. ಗಿರಿಜಾ, ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ, ರತ್ನಾ, ವೆಂಕಟಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ. ಸುಮತಿ, ಸವೀನಪರ್ವೀನ್ ಮುಂಬೀತಾಜ್, ನಜೀರೀತಾಜ್, ಜಹನಾರಾ, ಷಹಿದಾಬೇಗಂ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಬಿನಾಖಿಟೂ, ಇವರುಗಳಿಂದ ವೃಂದಸಂಗೀತ, ನಾಟಕ, ನೃತ್ಯ, ಗೀತಾವಲನ, ಲಘುಸಂಗೀತ, ಕೋಲಾಟ, ಸುಗ್ಗಿನೃತ್ಯ, ಫಿಲ್ಮ್‌ಗಾನಗಳು, ಮುಂತ್ತು ಫ್ಯಾನ್ಸಿಡ್ರೆಸ್ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳು ನಡೆದು ಸಭಿಕರಿಂದ ಕ್ಕ್ಕಾಳಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟವು.

ಅನಂತರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಆರ್. ಜೋಸ್ಯರವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಗೂ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತವಾದ ಬಹುಮಾನ ಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಣೆಮಾಡಿ, ಅನೇಕ ಕಾಂಪಿಟಿಷನ್ನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಯಶೀಲಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಜಿ. ಉಷಾಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಕಪ್ಪನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಬಹುಮಾನಿಸಿದರು. ಅನಂತರ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರ ಫೋಟೋಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದನಂತರ ಸಭೆಯು ಮಂಗಳಾಯವಾಯಿತು.

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

Brahma moved to pity, imparted to them the Dhanurveda, together with the spells and all the necessary implements belonging to it. Supplied with the Dhanurveda, his four feet and his six angas, the gods went in search of Dadhici and requested him to surrender to them their weapons. Dadhici was quite willing to do so, even though this kindness should cost him his life, provided he were allowed to ascend to the divine heaven. His request was granted, and Dadhici advised the gods to let a cow lick his body until the bones which represented their arms were laid free. This was done. Out of the thirtyone bones of Dadhici's body arose thirty-one weapons, and his backbone, the thirty-second bone, was transformed into the thirty-second weapon, Indra's thunderbolt. Provided with these weapons, which had assumed the shape of the bones from which they originated, the gods went to encounter the demons again, who could not withstand this time the assault of the gods.

The third species of weapons, the Mukta-amukta, those which my be thrown and not thrown, are divided into two classes, into the Sopasamhara or those which are connected with the withdrawing or restraining Upasamhara, and into the Upasamhara themselves, which are the restrainers of the previous class.

Of the former there are 44 varieties, and of the latter 54.

The 44 Sopasamhara weapons are the following :—

1. The dandacakra (discus of punishment)
2. The dharmacakra (the discuss of right).
3. The kalacakra (the discus of Yama).
4. The aindracakra (the discus of Indra).
5. The sulavara (the spear of Siva).
6. The brahmasirsa (the head of Brahma).
7. The modaki (the charmer).
8. The sikhari (the pointed).
9. The dharmapasa (the noose of right).
10. The varunapasa (the noose of Varuna).
11. The painakastra (the missile of Siva).
12. The vayavya (the missile of Vayu).
13. The suska (the dry).
14. The ardra (the wet).
15. The sikharastra (the flaming missile).
16. The krauncastra (the Kraunca missile).
17. The hayasirsa (the horse-headed missile).
18. The vidyastra (the missile of knowledge).
19. The avidyastra (the missile of ignorance).
20. The gandharvastra (the gandharva missile).
21. The nandanastra (the joy-producing missile).
22. The varsana (the rainy missile).
23. The sosana (the drying missile).
24. The prasvapana (the sleep-causing missile).
25. The prasamana (the soothing missile).
26. The santapana (the tormenting missile).
27. The vilapana (the wailing missile).
28. The mathana (the churning missile).
29. The manavastra (the missile of Manu).
30. The samana (the conciliatory missile).
31. The tamasa (the missile of darkness).
32. The samvarta (the rolling missile).
33. The mausala (the club-shaped missile).
34. The satya (the missile of truth).
35. The saura (the missile of the sun).
36. The mayastra (the missile of illusion).
37. The tvaashtra (the missile of Visva-karma).
38. The somastra (the missile of the moon).
39. The samhara (the missile of restraining).
40. The manasa (the spiritual missile).
41. The nagastra (the missile of the serpent).
42. The garudastra (the missile of Garuda).
43. The sailastra (the rocky missile).

44. The isikastra (the reed missile).

The 55 Upasamhara weapons are as follows :—

The Sopasamhara weapons are contained in the 29th Sarga of Schlegel's edition of the Balakanda, while the Upasamhara weapons are mentioned mostly in the 30th canto.

The last five weapons are peculiar to the demons, while five other weapons are on the other hand most effective against these demons and cause their destruction; they are found under the numbers 1, 9, 25, 41 and 47.

These 44 Sopasamhara and 54 Upasamhara weapons represent the Muktaamukta class, and they are deposited in the third foot of the Dhanurveda. They represent the belief widely spread in India that the knowledge of certain spells endowed their owner with supernatural power, of which power these mysterious weapons are the outward token. To a person not within the pale of Brahmanism they appear like mere creations of a fervid imagination. On the other hand the Indians do not stand alone in this belief in supernatural weapons, though it has been reserved to them only to define and to classify them methodically !

The last and most potent division, or the Mantramukta, is only represented by six weapons, but then they are so powerful that nothing can frustrate or subdue them. Their names are—

1. Visnucakra (the discus of Visnu).
2. Vajrastra (the thunderbolt).
3. Brahmastra (the missile of Brahma).
4. Kalapasaka (the noose of death).
5. Narayanastra (the missile of Narayana).
6. Pasupatastra (the missile of Pasupati).

These six weapons, which are projected by spells, reside in his fourth foot.

The war machines which the ancient Indians used, whether they were made of metal or of stone, and out of which they hurled iron and lead balls at their enemies, were doubtless discharged by means of gunpowder. The existence of gunpowder is intimated by Vaisampayana in his description of the nalika, and by the application of smoke-balls which, according to the commentator of Vaisampayana, were really, made of gunpowder. The ancient Hindus were also, as is well known, great adepts in the art of smelting and casting metals.

The old Hindus displayed a great ingennity in inventing injurious and irritating compounds and refined expedients for hurling them amongst the enemy during a combat.

Boiling oil has been used by many nations in different parts of the globe, and the old Indians believed also in its efficacy, but they used besides explosive oil. The resin of the Sal tree (Shorea robusta), which resin is also called kalakala, is recommended likewise. The casting of melted sugar is mentioned as well as that of heated sand. Pots filled with venomous snakes mixed together with honey, spikes and big stones, saws, smoke-balls, burning husks of corn, and other injurious preparations were frequently employed in India. The soldiers of Duryodhana, when encamped in Kuruksetra, had at their disposal similar implements of war.

These weapons and mixtures were probably used more generally during sieges and in street-fights than in open combat.

The weapons just now enumerated and many others of the same objectionable and cruel type are ascribed to the depravity of the Kaliyuga, when war is conducted in an unfair, mean, and deceitful manner.

(to be continued)

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Visitors from the White Continent

On the 7th December 1977, in the morning, as we were considering the daily duties, there were sounds on the stair-case, and a tall, lithe, fair European visitor was ushered in. We wished him to be seated, and asked "Where are you from?" He replied "I am from Italy, Rome". "What has brought you to India?" "Two of us have come to study the "Mohanje Daro and Harappa Remains", and consider how the ruin could have been so sudden and so utter, what terrible weapons were used, and whether planes, spitfires, were then in vogue." "What brings you to Mysore?", we asked. "To see you!" he replied. We were taken aback, and then he asked about Maharshi Bharadwaja's 'Vymanika Sastra', and the attendant dialogue continued through the morning.

At 12 noon we told him that we had to attend to daily ablutions, and desired that the meeting be adjourned. He said he would come at 2-30 along with his friend, and left.

He returned as stated, accompanied by his friend, medium sized, medium stout, round faced with a fringe of beard. He laid down a heavy satchel which he carried, and introduced himself as Senor Ettore Vincenti, of Milan, Italy. He opened the satchel, and brought out a tape-recorder and colour-photographic camera. We asked whether they were made in Italy. He said "No, from Japan. Italy is not so industrially developed."

We recalled that two years ago when 3 visitors from Denmark called on us, and brought out cameras and equipment, we asked, "Made in Denmark?". They replied "No. From Japan," and joined in the laughter! We hear that Swiss visitors to Dubai ask for Electric wrist watches "made in Japan! "Good old Japan," Land of the Rising sun!" What men! What brains! What skilled artisanship! And what rock-bottom economy! And where are we? We are idle, inefficient, greedy, vain, and boastful!" A Great nation, forsooth!

Mr. Vincenti set the tape-recorder and asked whether he could tune it. We were surprised, being unprepared, but said alright; and for an hour and half we spoke about the antecedents of "Vymanika Sastra", and of the modus of transmission of Indian literary heritage in the prehistoric eras.

After some two hours of this dialogue, they wanted to see the drawings of the several kinds of Aeroplanes. After studying, them intently, the heavy colour-camera was set up, and the designs were photographed, inch by inch, laboriously, patiently.

By evening Mr. Vincenti got quite tired, and they packed up and adjourned the interview for the next morning.

They came on the 8th, and set up the camera, and photographed the remaining aeroplane drawings.

Then they asked about the ancient weapons of warfare. That subject was dealt with by Professor Gustav Oppert, based on the "Sukra-Niti," the predecessor of Chanakya's "Arthasastra". We had the English translation of that great work, and when we showed

them, they photographed its pages describing the Mukta and Amukta shastras, and the Sopasamhaara and Upasamhaara Astras, as well as the pages describing the ingredients and manufacture of Gunpowder, whose invention had been wrongly attributed to China.

We then showed them the English translation of the great "Matsya Purana," edited by the eminent Indian, Major B. D. Basu. Its charts, Wilford's tables of Asiatic Researches, Bentley's table of Historical dynasties tracing back to 3044 BC, and map of Mount Meru and Sapta Dweepas, aroused deep interest.

The "Amsu Bodhinee," another remarkable legacy of venerable Pandit Subraya Sastry, in English, was equally interesting, and they photographed the beautiful chart it contained, of Sweta Varaha Brahmanda, Parabrahma Mandala, and Srushti and Laya, or Creation and Pralaya.

These studies occupied morning and afternoon sessions.

Messrs. Vincenti and Davenport expressed gratification at the rich information we had provided them, and thanked us. They took photographs of us, seated at a table with an open book, and standing with them on either side, and prepared to bid farewell. " We want to read everything you have written," they said, and both bought copies of our English books.

" Where are you going from here ", we asked, and they replied, " Tomorrow morning to Bangalore, and fly to Karachi on way to Harappa ". "You will stay a day or two there and fly back to Rome and write a book, will you " ?, we asked, and they joined in the laughter. " No, we shall study things there a few days, and return home ", they replied.

Before taking leave, they left the following interesting note about the purpose of their visit, which we gladly publish.

Mysore 8th December 1977

My colleague, Mr. D. W. Davenport is a linguistic scholar, and I myself am a Journalist. We are linked by an old friendship, and have decided after many discussions to investigate deep into the pre-vedic and vedic Sanskrit scripts so as to establish their contents as being factual events of the past.

The papers and documents demonstrated by Mr. Davenport on this subject, along with my own knowledge of the subject, was eventually presented to my publishers, "Rizzoli Editor" of milan in Italy, who do not, and have never published, fantasy paper-backs, undertook the sponsorship of our reesearch.

This trip is brief, and so as only to collect a certain amount of indicative data, however only the begining of a new chapter in history.

ETIORE VINCENT
DAVID WILLIAM DAVENPORT.

So ended the episode of the two visitors from the White Continent, to our humble and ascetic hermitage !

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

The existence of many uncivilized nations of the lowest origin contributes greatly to the degeneration of the times. Among the despicable peoples thus enumerated are found the Huns, Pulindas, Sabaras, Pahlavas, Sakas, Malavas, Varvaras, Konkanas, Andhras, Colas, Pandyas, Keralas, Mlecchas, Candalas, Svapacas, Khalas, Mavellakas, Lalitthas, Kiratas, and Kukkuras. To add insult to injury, and to show the low position of these nations, the Hindus said these tribes originated from the vagina of a cow !

No invention has, within the last five hundred years, been so influential in shaping the destinies of nations as the introduction of gunpowder and of firearms into warfare. The fate of whole realms depended, and depends to a certain extent even now, on the proficiency attained by the combatants in the manufacture of better gunpowder or of projectile weapons of superior quality.

When missiles despatched from projectile weapons by means of gunpowder easily penetrated the knights clad in their strongest suit of armour, while the persons who used those arms were quite beyond the reach of their physically perhaps stronger foes, no wonder that armour was discarded in course of time, and the mediæval knight, who had hitherto without much difficulty maintained his supremacy single-handed against a multitude, found his former superiority gone, and disappeared gradually from the scene. Fortresses, which, before the invention of gunpowder, had been regarded as impregnable, lost their reputation as safe strongholds, and new schemes and practices had to be devised to obviate the difficulties of the altered situation.

Slight improvements in the construction or manipulation of firearms produced often most important alterations in the political history of the world. Frederick the Great is said to have owed in his earlier campaigns many of his victories to the quicker mode of loading adopted by the Prussian army ; and it is not so long ago that we ourselves have witnessed a rearrangement of the map of Europe, partly effected by means of superior weapons being used by one nation against another. It is therefore natural that a general interest should be more or less taken in all important advances made in this subject, which, if well studied and applied, provides a nation with the means of ensuring its freedom, independence, and supremacy, so long as actual strength is regarded as the only recognized claim to independent political existence.

The invention of gunpowder has been ascribed to different individuals belonging to different countries, and as the question as to its authorship and antiquity is still an open one, we shall discuss this mooted point and shall endeavour to prove that the oldest documents mentioning and describing gunpowder are found in India and written in Sanskrit, and that the use of gunpowder and its application to the discharge of missile from projectile weapons was a well known fact in ancient India, corroborating so far the opinion of those who always pointed out India as the original seat of its invention. The question whether China received the knowledge of gunpowder from India, or vice versa, cannot be touched here, as there do not exist any trustworthy documents bearing on this question. No Chinese work on this question can, with respect to antiquity, be compared with the Sukraniti, so

that even if the Chinese should have independently invented gunpowder, the claim as to priority of invention will certainly remain with India.

A Franciscan monk, Berthold Schwarz, whose real name was Constantin Ancklitzen or Anklitz, is generally, especially in Germany, credited with the invention of gunpowder, which, according to tradition, was made at Freiburg in the Breisgau about the year 1330. No doubt Black Barthel, der schwarze Barthel, as he was popularly called, dabbled in alchemy and was very fond of chemical experiments, during one of which he was blown up and nearly killed by an explosion of a mortar he was experimenting upon. Eventually he was accused of practising magic and necromancy and sent to prison. A greatful posterity erected in his honour a statue on the spot where the Franciscan Convent of Freiburg had once stood; an honour which he may have richly deserved for many reasons, but surely not for being the original inventor of gunpowder.

Many years previously to Barthold Schwarz, another Franciscan monk, Roger Becon (1214-94), the Doctor Mirabilish of Oxford, had already pointed out the peculiar qualities of saltpetre, as exemplified in the action of gunpowder. Like every chemical scholar in those times, he became an object of clerical suspicion, was incarcerated by his superiors on the plea of practising forbidden magic, and though for a time released by Pope Clement IV, he was again imprisoned under Pope Nicholas III. Bacon suggests that gunpowder should be used in war, as it would supply a powerful means for the destruction of hostile armies. He notices particularly the thunderlike noise and lightninglike flash at the time of its explosion; its application to crackers and fireworks is a subject he was well acquainted with. He states in his book on the secret works of art and nature two of the principal ingredients which compose gunpowder—saltpetre and sulphur—but not wishing, according to the mysterious inclination of those days, to make the secret known, he uses in his prescription the obscure expression lura nope cum ubre, which has been later ingeniously found out to stand for carbonum pulcere.

It is now generally supposed that Roger Bacon learnt the secret of the manufacture of gunpowder while he was travelling in Spain, where it was pretty well known among the Moors, who were not only the most learned nation at that period, but who, through religious and national tradition were intimately connected with their more eastern co-religionists and compatriots. An Arabic treatise on gunpowder written in 1249 is up to this day preserved in the Library of the Royal Escurial.

In the National Library at Paris is preserved a work ascribed to one Marcus Graecus. It was published at Paris in 1806 as Liber ignium ad comburendos hostes, auctore Marco Graeco. About the nationality and the life of this Marcus Graecus nothing is known for certain. According to some he lived in the 9th, according to others in the 13th century. The accuracy of the name is even doubtful, as he is also called Marcus Gracchus instead of Graecus. If the latter appellation be the more correct one, it might perhaps be surmised that the work was originally written in Greek. Saltpetre occurs three times in his book, as sal petrosum; lapis qui dicitur petra salis, and as sal petrum. According to Marcus Graecus the composition of gunpowder is two parts of charcoal, one part of sulphur, and six parts of saltpetre.

(to be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

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ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

Towards the end of the seventh century the architect Kalinikos of Heliopolis, when Constantinople was besieged by the Arabs in 668, manufactured big tubes made of iron or of other metals, formed like big beasts with gaping jaws, out of which were thrown iron, stones and combustibles. In consequence of the havoc caused by these projectiles the siege of the city was raised. The Greeks kept, it is said, the secret of the composition for four centuries, when it was betrayed to the Saracens, who availed themselves of it during the crusades at Jerusalem and also at Damietta. If the ingredients are rightly mentioned, e.g., by the Byzantine princess, Anna Komnena, who wrote the history of her father Alexios, they consisted only of resin, oil, and sulphur, and not of saltpetre. As Kallinikos hailed from Heliopolis, the place otherwise known as Baalbec, and as the Greek fire seems to have been a liquid, the most important ingredient of which was naphtha, which was well known to, and was much made use of by the Eastern nations,—as it is found near Baku on the Caspian Sea, (where the gas, as it escapes from fissures in the earth in the neighbourhood of the oil-springs, has been burning unintermittedly for centuries and is worshipped by Parsees,) in the island of Tchelekin on the other side of the Caspian sea opposite to Baku, in Mesopotamia, in Kurdistan, in North India, and in China—it is probable that Kallinikos only introduced this powerful combustible into Western warfare, and that it was before his time employed in the East. At all events it was a most powerful preparation for the destruction of the enemy, and the terror it spread among the troops of Louis IX before Damietta is graphically described by contemporaries. It seems to have even been used in European wars, for, according to Pere Daniel, the king Philip Augustus of France had brought home some of it from Acre, and used it at the siege of Dieppe

against the English ships there at anchor. It is said that Napoleon the Great became acquainted with the real composition of the Greek fire, but that he pronounced it inapplicable; one of the chief reasons for his decision being probably the fluid state of the combustible.

There exists an old tradition, according to which the Arabs possessed at an early date a knowledge of the manufacture of gunpowder, and that they obtained it originally from India, with which country they had an active commercial intercourse. They are even said to have improved on the original manufacture. That the Arabs received their earliest gunpowder supplies from India, and that this country was the original seat of its invention was very strongly urged so early as the end of the last century by M. Langles in a paper read in the French Institute in 1798. This opinion is also upheld by Johann Beckmann (1739–1811), whose well known "History of Inventions and Discoveries", (Beitrage zur Geschichte der Erfindungen) has passed through many English editions. He says there: "In a word, I am more than ever inclined to accede to the opinion of those who believe that gunpowder was invented in India, and brought by the Saracens from Africa to the Europeans; who, however, improved the preparation of it, and found out different ways of employing it in war, as well as small arms and cannons."

Having discussed so far the question as to the invention of gunpowder, we now turn to its application in war by means of projectile weapons. The first country in Europe where such projectile weapons were used was Spain. They are mentioned by Arabian writers as far back as 1312, and were used in 1323 at the siege of Baza. The French seem to have employed them since 1338, at first for dismantling castles and fortifications only, and not in the battle-field as Edward III of England is said to have done in 1346 at Crecy. The French writers seem to have been indignant at the employment of such destructive arms against human beings, for one of them says: "On ne faisoit point encore usage en France en 1347 de cette arme terrible contre les hommes; les Francois s'en etoient bien servis en 1338, pour l'attaque de quelques chateaux, mais ils rougissoient de l'employer contre leurs semblables. Les Anglois, moins humains, sans doute, nous devancerent et s'en servirent a la celebra bataille de Creci, qui eut lieu entre les troupes du roi d'Angleterre, Edouard III, qui fut si mechant, si perfide, qui donna tant de fil a retordre a Philippe de Valois, et aux troupes de ce dernier; et ce fut en majeure partie a la frayeur et a la confusion qu'occasionnerent les canons, dont les Anglois se servoient pour la premiere fois, qu'ils avoient postes sur une colline proche le village de Creci, que les Francois durent leur deroute." These projectile weapons were formed like tubes and were therefore called cannons from canna, a reed. In German they were known as Rohr, which word has the same meaning. The small firearms were originally without a stock, and as they were very heavy, they used to be placed on a fork when they were discharged. The arquebuse with a wheel was first used by Emperor Charles V and Pope Leo X in the year 1521 at the siege of Parma against Francis I, King of France. The same Martin Bellay who states this fact, further informs us that the German horse or Reiter were the first, who were armed with pistols, and that those troopers were thence called pistoliers. Musket is a still later weapon. It has got its name from the French mouchet (Latin muschetus, sparrow hawk). The Duke of Alva is reported to have first used them in the Netherlands.

The gun was originally fired by the simple application of a lighted match. The clumsiness and uncertainty of this procedure especially during storms and rains suggested improvements. At first a cock was added to give security to the hand, afterwards a firestone was inserted into this cock and a small wheel was fastened to the barrel. The wheel lock is said to have been invented in 1517 at Nurnberg in Bavaria. The firestone first used was not the flint which was employed later, but the pyrites or marcasite. The match was nevertheless not altogether discarded, as the stone often missed fire, and it was retained together with the wheel. Flint locks were of a far later origin. They were first used in 1687 by the Brunswickers, and they were introduced into England under William III during the years 1692-93. These continued improvements, to which we may add the modern percussion lock, the needle-gun, and the breech-loader, were mainly necessitated by the perilous and defenceless position a soldier was in as soon as he had discharged his gun against an enemy, who chose this moment as convenient to attack him. The greater the rapidity in loading, the greater is the efficiency of the fireweapon.

If we now turn our attention from the West to the East we find that powder and firearms seem to have been much earlier used in the latter than in the former.

It is recorded that in the battle near Delhi fought between Tamerlane and Sultan Mahmud, the latter opposed his enemy with 10,000 horsemen, 40,000 men on foot, and a great number of elephants clad in armour. On the top of those elephants were big howdahs from which the sharpshooters flung fireworks and rockets on the troops of Timur; and on the sides of those elephants marched "des jetteurs de pots a feu et de poix enflamee ainsi que des fusees volantes pointees de fer, qui donnent plusieurs coups de suite dans le lieu ou ils tombent. According to Clavigo, Timur was beaten in the first engagements through those 50 mailed elephants, but on the following day Timur took many camels and loaded them with dry grass placing them in front of the elephants. When the battle began, he caused the grass to be set on fire and when the elephants saw the burning straw upon the camels, they fled." When attacking Bhatnir, Timur's troops were received in a similar manner for "the besieged cast down in showers arrows and stones and fireworks upon the heads of the assailants."

According to Ferishta, Hulaku Khan, the founder of the Mogol Empire in Western Asia, sent in 1258 an ambassador to the king of Delhi, and when the ambassador was approaching he was received by the vezir of the king with a great retinue, and among the splendid sights were 3,000 fire cars. About the same time we are informed that in the wars between the Chinese and the Mogol invaders a kind of firearms was used. It seems to have been like a rocket. It was called impetuous fire dart. "A nest of grains—case of chick peas—was introduced into a long tube of bamboo, which, on being ignited, darted forth a violent flame, and instantly the charge was projected with a noise like that of a pao, which was heard at about the distance of 150 paces." Deguignes says that the Mogols used in 1275 a similar weapon against the Chinese: "Les Chinois reprirent Tchangtcheou; et Tchang-chi-kiai avec un grand nombre de barques qu'il avait ramassees, s'approcha pour combattre les Mogols. Mais At-chou avec des fleches enflammees, y fit mettre le feu, et les troupes Chinoises, apres une vive resistance, se precipiterent dans le fleuve."

(to be continued)

SOLAR ECLIPSE

"An eclipse of the Sun occurs to-morow. It is total in parts of China, the duration of totality being about three minutes, and is partial in parts of India and Burma." The Hindu takes on eclipse, solar or lunar, seriously. He performs certain religious ceremonies and observes certain restrictions in regard to food, etc., a few hours prior to the commencement of the eclipse and during the time the eclipse is on. Leaving out the religious observances, the restrictions in regard to food, etc , should seem surprising in the face of the fact that the ancient Hindus were the first among the civilized nations of the world to have correct and scientific ideas about eclipses. But should such restrictions really surprise us ?

We are all children of the Sun, inhabiting a piece of sun-stuff which has cooled. We not only live by the Sun ; we live on it. If the sun should go out, our bodies would vanish with its beams. It should, therefore surprise us if the changes on the Sun do not produce corresponding changes in us, or if the cutting off of its beams, even for a small duration, does not affect us at all.

The Sun, in addition to the heat and light that it gives, belches forth and rains corpuscular shrapnel in the earth's direction. The bombardment is very heavy at times when the brilliant surface of the Sun is covered all over with numerous dark spots, for the vortical motion of the gases in the neighbourhood of the spots causes the ejection of electrically charged particles and free electrons which carry a negative charge, in profuse quantities. When these charged particles enter our atmosphere, electrical effects are produced ; the compass needle swings feverishly ; the sky is filled with an arch of light, the rays appearing like numerous curtain folds. These magnificent displays in the sky are known as aurorae, and they occur only in high latitudes ; for the electrical particles ejected from the Sun on reaching the earth's atmosphere are directed by the earth's magnetic field towards the poles, Radio communication is also interfered with : the clouds of corpuscles hitting the ionosphere cause undulations in it. There is constant bouncing up and down of the 'radio ceiling' with the intensity of solar bombardment, so that the radio waves carrying your favourite programme reflected from this shifting ceiling either fall short of their destination, or they overshoot. Thus are caused the so-called radio fade-outs, so irritating to a radio listener.

At the time of a solar eclipse, the Moon screens off all kinds of radiation or emission from the Sun earthward. Since the ionosphere owes its ionization chiefly to corpuscles emitted from the sun, the production of new ions will cease during the time of the eclipse, and as the eclipse passes away the corpuscular bombardment will be renewed and the ion content will begin to increase. Prof. Chapman has calculated the region on the rotating earth where the particles or corpuscles screened by the moon, will fail to fall. This "corpuscular shadow" cast by the moon would, according to him, consume 74 minutes in passing the centre of the earth's disc, the actual time of passage depending on the latitude, the season, and the time of day at which the elipse occurs for the locality in question. He takes a speed of 1,000 miles per second for these corpuscles, since they could not be expected to travel with the velocity of light. According to him, therefore, "the corpuscular shadow" lags far behind the "light shadow", and in consequence the earth should feel the effect of the corpuscular shadow some two hours prior to the arrival of the light shadow.

The existence of the corpuscular shadow has been demonstrated at a number of eclipses. During the eclipse of January 1925, Prof. Pickard found that during the period of totality, radio waves of such frequencies as are transmitted better by night showed remarkable increase in their intensity, whereas waves of such frequencies as are generally transmitted better by day showed a decrease in the intensity. The same effect was noticed by Appletion and Naismith during the solar eclipse which passed over England and Norway in June 1927, the maximum effect being simultaneous with the time of greatest visual darkness. During the solar eclipse of August 31, 1932, observations made in London revealed a decrease of ionization about two hours before the time for mid-eclipse. During the annular eclipse of the sun visible in India on August 21, 1933, Professors Mitra, Rakshit, Syam and Ghose of the University of Calcutta, undertook radio observations. These indicated a gradual fall in the ionization of the Appleton, or F, layer, for about two hours to one hour before the eclipse, which was not paralleled on either the previous or the following days. Observations on the Heaviside, or E layer indicated likewise a decrease in ionization beginning about one hour before the start of the eclipse and reaching a minimum value shortly after central eclipse.

If the disposition of the sun affects the tides of our atmosphere, why should it not govern a similar tide in the affairs of men? Men are but bundles of nerves whose behaviour patterns are determined by the flow of electrons. Any slight change in these patterns as a result of the changes in the electromagnetic field of the earth should cause a corresponding change in their behaviour. That this is so is evident when we look at man's behaviour in world's history during times of intense sun-spot activity. During each of the thirty years of sunspot maxima in the past three centuries there have been major wars; or such wars shortly preceded or followed such maxima. Even the present war, 1941, started at the peak of the present sun-spot cycle.

When, therefore, corpuscular matter ejected from the sun is screened off suddenly by the moon coming between us and the sun, our organisms automatically react. In what way they react the biologist will have to observe and tell us. And as the radio-researchers have shown that the earth feels the effect of the corpuscular shadow a few hours prior to the actual occurrence of the eclipse, where is the wonder in our ancien Hindus enjoining certain restrictions during the time that the corpuscular shadow is on?

M. V. RAMAKRISHNAN

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WORLD OUTLOOK

WEST POINT, U.S.A.

A commission of three generals, appointed by the Pentagon to look into the situation at the West Point Military Academy, has arrived at the conclusion that it is suffering from poor morale ! One hundred and fifty-two cadets have been expelled for cheating on an exam ! Sports, which brought fame to West Point, are on the decline. The commission has also criticized the "grimness" and "humourless" atmosphere prevailing at the Academy. Among the recommendations made to boost morale is one calling for the development of a sense of humour among the cadets. The generals have urged that civilian members be added to the teaching staff—but not in excess of 5 per cent of the total, to correct what they call "intellectual inbreeding"!

STATE LIABLE ?

Can one finish school and remain absolutely illiterate ? One can, it seems ! Richard Fischer of Seattle, U.S.A., got his school-leaving certificate, although he had not learned to read ! Because of that he was rejected even by the army. He and his father have now filed a suit, demanding additional education and claiming compensation for all the time he has been out of job since his graduation in 1974 !

CHICKEN OR EGG ?

A Thai man named Damrong Sumpradit has been sentenced to a long prison term for killing a friend during an argument over what came first, the chicken or the egg ! Damrong argued that the chicken came first, and his friend insisted that it was the egg. What started as a peaceful discussion grew into a quarrel, which ended fatally when one of the men took out a knife and the other grabbed a hammer !

SOARING COSTS

Living costs are rising, complains a healthy American. Medical care robs you of your last money, says an American just

out of hospital. According to official statistics, the average family spent $258 more in 1976 on medical care than in 1970. Here is a recent example: the birth of a premature baby has resulted in a hospital bill totalling $34,118 for an Idaho couple! Even simple operations cost quite a penny. The national average for appendectomy is $339, but the fee can be as high as $574. There is no arguing that in the United States it is better to be healthy and rich, than poor and ailing!

UNEMPLOYED

The words "unemployment" and "youth" are ever more frequently placed together in newspaper and magazine headlines. "Britain's young generation has risen against society", says the British press with alarm. "Nobody Employs Them", runs a heading in West Germany's DER STERN. The same is stated by French, Italian, Belgian and Netherland newspapers and magazines. Below are some figures, given by U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

WASHINGTON. As many as 3,600,000 young Americans search for a job every day.

LONDON. There are 600,000 unemployed in Britain under the age of 25.

ROME. There are 1,200,000 young unemployed in Italy.

PARIS. 45 per cent of school leavers cannot find a job.

BONN. Student organizations say there are some 500,000 unemployed in West Germany under the age of 25.

There are 7,000,000 young unemployed in industrialized capitalist countries. Bourgeois society has granted them the "freedom" of being odd in their countries.

And why not India?

Ed.

"GOLDEN GOOSE"

Among the subjects taught in secondary schools are mathematics, literature, physics and chemistry. The U. S. corporation, Wheelabrator Fryo Inc. has come up with a new "subject" for students of U. S. high schools and colleges. The purpose of its well got-out publication entitled "The Golden Goose" is to explain to America's younger generation the basic principles of free enterprise.

And so once upon a time there lived, for instance, Wheelabrator Frye Inc. According to the booklet, it has savings. "When a company sells a product the money it recieves is used to pay its employees, to pay suppliers, and to pay taxes to the government. Whatever is left is "Savings".

But where do these savings come from, the booklet further asks. From business, we learn. "Business is really responsible for almost all of our Savings—in one way or another–and these Savings make Jobs". Says the booklet. "If you think of pay-checks and jobs as Golden Eggs, something everyone wants—then Business is the Golden Goose who lays these Eggs!"

We've heard that fairy tale before. Like any other, it points a moral.

"But," says the booklet, "like the goose who could lay only one golden egg a day, Business can only create a certain amount of paychecks and jobs each day If we demand too much, we can take away its health....or even its life. When people demand too much–some wanting prices to fall....others wanting more welfare aid ...that's like trying to squeeze too many eggs too fast from the goose"!

The moral is illustrated with a picture of a dead goose on an empty nest: which makes things clear to the young American. Mind you take good care of Business, and don't try to take away its profits!

OUR ATOMIC TURNOVER

Man is 98 percent "born again" every year. That much of the basic material of his body is replaced with new material each 12 months.

This is one of the most astonishing revelations made by the use of radioactive isotopes—peaceful products of atomic energy—in physiological investigations, says Dr. Paul C Aebersold, Director of the Isotopes Division of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, in a report to the Smithsonian Institution. The report says:

"Medical man used to think of the human body as an engine that takes in food, air and water mainly as fuel to keep running on. Only a small part of these materials was thought to go for replacement of engine wear.

"Investigations with radio-isotopes have now demonstrated that the body, instead, is much more like a very fluid military regiment which may retain its size, form and composition even though the individuals in it are continually changing—joining up, being transferred from post to post, promoted or demoted, acting as reserves, and finally departing after varying lengths of service.

"Tracer studies, in which radio-isotopes are introduced into the human body and their movements followed with radiation detection instruments, show that the atomic turnover in our bodies is quite rapid and quite complete. In a week or two half the sodium atoms will be replaced by other sodium atoms. The case is similar for hydrogen and phosphorus. Even half of the carbon atoms will be replaced in a month or two.

"And so the story goes for nearly all the elements. In a year approximately 98 per cent of the atoms in us now will be replaced by other atoms that we take in our air, food and drink.

"Our body processes are continually breaking down and building up organic molecules. The breaking-down process releases the energy which is necessary for proper functioning of our bodies. A fine balance is maintained between the degradation to obtain energy and the synthesis to make new organic molecules."

Of the more than 1,000 nuclear species, or isotopes, that have been identified to date, Dr. Aebersold says, over 150 are radioactive and 100 of these new are manufactured routinely at the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission's Oak Ridge, Tennassee laboratory.

Some of the remarkable results obtained in biological laboratories all over the world, he points out, are due to the extreme sensitivity of the radio-isotope tracer technique. It is possible to detect the presence of certain atoms with methods which have hundreds of millions of times the sensitivity of other physical and chemical techniques.

MILD NAME!

This year's Doublespeak Award of the National Council of Teachers of English in the United States has been won by the Pentagon. It was so "honoured" for referring to the "neutron bomb," which is capable of killing all life within its range, as a "radiation-enhancement weapon!"

GALLANT BISHOP

"I see increasing symptoms of a sick society in the United Kingdom", the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rt. Rev. Vernon Nicholls, said recently. "No one today who watches television can take pleasure at the vast number of plays and films which portray violence and sex." The Bishop said he was determined to prevent "the desperate state of morals in England" reaching the Isle of Man!

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

At another place Deguignes, under the year 917, says that the Kitans carried with them a combustible which they had received from the King of Ou, and that this fluid burnt even under water. Arabian reports inform us that the Arabs used in India Atish-bazi, like those employed by the Greeks and Persians. Ferishta tells us that in the battle which Mahmud of Ghazna fought near Peshawar with Anandapal in 1,008 cannon (toap) and muskets (tufang) were used by Mahmud. Colonel Tod says in his Annals of Rajasthan: "We have, in the poems of the Hindu poet Chand, frequent indistinct notices of fire-arms, especially the nalgola, or tube ball; but whether discharged by percussion or the expansive force of gunpowder is dubious. The poet also repeatedly speaks of "the volcano of the field," giving to understand great guns; but these may be interpolations, though I would not check a full investigation of so curious a subject by raising a doubt." Muhammed Kasim used such a machine or manjanik when besieging in A.H. 93 (A. D. 711-12) the port of Daibal. The first thing done with this machine was to shoot down from the top of the high pagoda a long pole surmounted with a red cloth. The prophet Muhammed is also credited with having used the manjanik when besieging Taif in the ninth year of the Hegira, and according to Ibn Kotaibah the projectile weapon in question was already used by Jazynah, the second King of Hyrah, whose date is fixed about the year 200 A.D.

Passing over the statements of Dio Cassius and Johannes Antiochenus, that the Roman Emperor Caligula had machines from which stones were thrown among thunder and lightning, we come to the statement of Flavius Philostratos, who lived at the court of the Emperors Septimiue Severus, and Caracalla. In his history of Apollonios of Tyana, he mentions that when that extra-ordinary man was travelling in India, he had among other things learnt the real reason why Alexander the Great desisted from attacking the Oxydracae. "These truly wise men dwell between the rivers Hyphasis and Ganges; their country Alexander never entered, deterred not by fear of the inhabitants, but, as I suppose, by religious motives, for had he passed the Hyphasis, he might, doubtless, have made himself master of all the country round them; but their cities he never could have taken, though he had led a thousand as brave as Achilles, or three thousand such as Ajax, to the assault; for they come not out to the field to fight those who attack them, but these holy men, beloved by the gods, overthrew their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from their walls! It is said that the Egyptian Hercules and Bacchus, when they overran India, invaded this country also, and having prepared warlike engines, attempted to conquer them; they in the meanwhile made no show of resistance, appearing perfectly quiet and secure, but upon the enemy's near approach they were repulsed with storms of lightning and thunderbolts hurled upon them from above." In the apocryphal letter wich Alexander is said to have written to Aristotle, he describes the frightful dangers to which his army were exposed in India, when the enemies hurled upon them flaming thunderbolts.

Firdusi ascribed to Alexander this expedient when opposed by Porus. While Sikander, according to the author of the Shah-Nama, was marching against Porus (Fur), his troops became so frightened when they perceived the numbers of elephants which Porus was

sending against them, that Alexander consulted his ministers how to counteract this foe. Their advice was to manufacture an iron man and an iron horse, place the former on the latter, fix the horse on wheels, fill them both with naphtha and propel them towards the elephants, where they would explode with great havoc.

Such a stratagem is ascribed by the Franciscan monk Johannes de Plano Carpini to Prester John when he was fighting against the Tatars. In my monograph on Prester John I have pointed out to what special event it may probably refer, says Dr. Oppert.

We read in the extracts remaining from the work of Ktesias on India, that an oil was prepared from a big worm, which lived in the deep bed of the river Indus. This animal had two big tusks (jaws? branchioe), slept during the day in the muddy sands of the banks of the rivers, which it left at night in search of food, seizing big animals, which it devoured. According to C. Plinius Secundus this worm catches even elephants. When such an animal has been caught—which is generally done by binding a sheep or a goat to a strong pole—it is kept suspended in the sun for thirty days, that the oil may drip from it, and this oil was collected in earthen pots. Each worm supplied a quantity equal to ten measures of oil. This was sent to the king in sealed jars. The oil had the power to ignite every thing and was for this reason used especially at sieges. Jars filled with this material were thrown into besieged towns and whatever they touched ignited as soon as they broke. Nothing but rubbish and sweepings could extinguish the flame when once ignited. Neither man, nor animal, nor anything could withstand this terrific combustible. Philostratos confirmed these statements. According to him this worm-like insect lives in the Hyphasis, and the flame caused by the fire can only be subdued by being entirely covered with dust. The king is the sole owner of all these animals. Ktesias, Aelianos, and Philostratos, all three agree in the name of this worm, which they call Skolex. Lassen scorns the possibility of such a worm being in existence, and ascribes the whole description to the imaginative tendency so prevailing in the mind of Oriental nations. The late Professor H. H. Wilson takes a more practical view of the case, by identifying the worm in question with the Indian alligator, and remembering that the oil and the skin of the alligator were considered in ancient times to possess most wonderful qualities, and that the greater part of the other description tallies with the outward appearance and natural habits of the alligator. Wilson seems to have fixed on the right animal. Nevertheless so far as the name is concerned nobody so far as I know has tried to explain it. An animal of seven cubits in length, and of a breadth in proportion to its size, could hardly have been called a worm, unless the original name of the beast in question resembled the Greek word Skolex. The word represented by the Greek word Skolex is no doubt the Sanskrit term culuki, cullaki (with the variations ulupin or culumpin). Culukin is derived from culuka, mire, it is therefore an animal which likes to lie or to live in mud. The cullaki is described in Sanskrit works as somewhat similarly to the Sisumara, which is identified with the Delphinus Gangeticus, though its name denotes a childkiller. The cullaki is therefore a large aquatic animal, which because it lives principally in water, is called a fish; and as the crocodile prefers as its place of abode the muddy banks of a river, the name cullaki applies most appropriately to it.

(to be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
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SOARING CORRUPTION

"Is corruption in Tamilnadu so rampant as to make it appear legalised ?" the chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, was asked by the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister when he met them recently.

Mr. Ramachandran, who revealed this to-day, spoke of the obstacles one encountered while trying to stamp out corruption. Under the existing rules and regulations, it was not easy to send out corrupt officials.

How deeply has the evil eroded the fabric of administration? The Chief Minister gave an instance. A file relating to grant of stay in a property dispute came to a Minister, who just signed it, approving the department note rejecting the plea. When it reached the department, the Secretary found, to his suprise, that his suggestion had been turned down by the Minister ;—in the typed-sheet was found the order, hand-written, granting the stay.

The Minister was perplexed when the Secretary telephoned him to know the reason or his decision and he assured the official that he had ot made any change in the note but had only affixed his signature.

Obviously, someone had tampered with it, interpolating the words, when the file was returned to the department after his approval !

If this should happen in the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said, he dreaded to think of the situation down the administrative line. He, however, reiterated the Government's determination to root out this evil removing all hurdles in the way.

Mr. Ramachandran's rather frank remarks came after the Governor. Mr. Prabhudas Patwari's compliment to the Post and Telegraphs as "perhaps the least corrupt" of all the departments.

The Governor and the Chief Minister were participating in the inauguration of the Philatelic Exhibition, being held in the city.

In Karnataka ? 50, 100, 200, 1000....?

Ed.

To

The International Academy of Sanskrit Research

We are a group of yong skillfull and teknikaly eduecated people, and most of us are qualified in electronic branch.

And beside this we are also verry keen of parapsykological means of stof and hypoteses, ánd we have studed much about India and South America, Caribians and Polynesians, but we are verry found of old Indian Legends that vitch are described in ancient Sanskrit Legends and we have rugfly studyed the brief notes about Indian ancient coulture in varius books so thats the reason that we demands Indian Liberaly to help us that we could know some concrete and satisfied knowledge about that old days vitch are verry intellectual and verry teknically advance due to ancient Sanskrit books.

And just because of sutch books as "Areonautics" By Maharshi Bharadwaja, Samarangana Sutradhara and Mahabbarata, so we havc tried to explain vhat we seek for. (These books too)

So if there are more other books and Litteratur about the vimana and so on, so could you please send us, we want to borrow or want to buy. And if not so could you please inform us about the publisher and agency where we could buy sutch things.

We do hope that our request will be taken carefully because we dearly need the knowledge of Vimanas.

Our strugll is to find the key of teknical sekret vitch is dua to as we mean, is possible to find out analysing the Litteratur of that kind of huge machines as vimana and so on.

Please reply as soon as possible. Thanks a lot.

Yours Sincierly
Mr. NIELS SCHOU NIELSEN

My Adress
Mr. Niels Schou Nielsen
Odensevej 56th MF
4700 Noestred, Denmark.

ASIA'S PAST

India is now one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; but do you know long before Man made his appearance on earth what living creatures inhabited this place?

They were the frightful Dinosaurs whose existence here is abundantly evidenced by the discovery of their fossil remains in the Yemanapalli area of the Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh and near Trichy in Tamil Nadu and Jubbulpure and some other places. The fossil remains discovered in Andhra Pradesh were those of a medium-sized Sauropad Dinosaur and the ones unearthed in Tamil Nadu were those of a huge reptile Megalosaurus, and those found at Jabbalpure belonged to Allosaurus.

These 'Terrible Lizarda', as they are also called, ruled India about 160 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, and the lush vegetation here had supported a large dinosaurian fauna. It was also reported that the eggs of dinosaurs were found in the Gobi deserts of Mongolia.

Jean George writes in an article titled "Monster from 150 million B.C." in the Readers Digest (Jan. 75) that James Jenson, one of world's foremost field palaeontologists and Director of the Earth Science Museum at Brigham Young University, Utah USA, his son and an assistant had unearthed the fossil remains of a two-toothed mammal-like reptile, Lystrosaurus in Antarctica, and adds that the remains of this reptile were also found in India and Africa, and so concludes that about 200 million years ago these continents were all joined together!

According to the Plate Tectonics theory the earth's crust consists of a number of separate "plates" floating on the fluid rocks of the deeper interior somewhat like rafts. Some plates carry the continents; others form the ocean floor. New magma—hot fluid rock-keeps welling up between some of the plates, and cooling, forcing them to move away from each other.

The Pacific Ocean plate is thus moving towards California and with nowhere else to go is under-running the mainland. It is also moving northwords carying the coastal portion with it. This wonderful theory has now revolutionised geophysics and is applied to the formation of Himalayas also.

More than 130 million years ago India was separated from Asia by the Tethys Ocean, and the Indian block was converging towards the Asian block until 65 million years ago. This is evidenced by the open marine segmentation on the continental terrace in the Spiti area of North India and Southern Tibet.

Collision between India and Asia had taken place along the Indus-Brahmaputra suture before 45 million years ago, when widespread fossil-bearing limestones were deposited throughout the Himalayan region.

The marine transgression of North India is interpreted as due to a down-bucking at the collision margin of the Indian and Asian blocks, as the subducting lithosphere carrying the Indian plate had become jammed through buoyancy constraints of its continental crust. By this time neither the central gneisses (laminated rock of quartz, feldspar and mica) nor the schists (foliated metamorphic rock) of the Himalayas had formed.

Twenty million years ago there was isostatic readjustment after the collision and formation of the zone of gneisses and schists in the Himalayas.

T. RAJAGOPALAN.

(to be continued)

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

It is a peculiar coincidence that in Telugu an iguana is called udumu, and the lizard is generally called udumupille or young iguana; the Tamil name of the same animal is udumbu.

The identity is thus clearly established between the Greek word skolex (as the Greeks had no nearer sound than sk to resemble the palatal c), the Sanskrit words culuki (cullaki, culumpi, and ulupi), and the Dravidian udumbu and udumu.

On the west coast of India oil is even now obtained from big fish by letting their carcases lie in the sun and allowing the oil thus to ooze out, which process creates all the while an unbearable stench. With respect to the quantity of oil gained out of a fish like a porpoise and of a crocodile, the superiority rests doubtless with the former, though a well-fed and plump gavial possesses no doubt likewise a considerable amount of oily substance.

The iguana resembles in its shape a crocodile, and both being named in the Dravidian languages and in Sanskrit by the word culumpi alias udumbu, this term applies in the former languages to the smaller and in Sanskrit to the larger animal. The Sanskrit word musali and the Tamil mudalai are also identical in origin, but they differ in so far that musali denotes a house lizard and mudalai a crocodile. In fact the Sanskrit musali and culumpin (culuki) correspond according to their meaning to the Tamil udumbu and mudalai. The inference to be drawn from this fact is obvious.

The culukin is in Sanskrit only a large sized animal; a worm, especially an earthworm, is called a kinculuka or kinculaka or kincilaka, i.e., a little culuka.

No doubt the description of Ktesias is in many respects inaccurate, but I hope to have been able to trace the thread of truth which runs through it.

As oil, especially boiling oil, which is used in Indian warfare, the subject is of particular interest in this inquiry.

INDIA THE HOME OF GUNPOWDER AND FIREARMS

In every inquiry which is conducted with the object of proving that a certain invention has been made in any particular country, it is of the utmost importance to show that so far as the necessary constituents of the object invented are concerned, all these could be found in the country credited with such invention.

The ordinary components of gunpowder are saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal.

1. It is now generally admitted that the nitrum which occurs in the writings of the ancients was not saltpetre, but natron, i.e., sodium carbonate; the latter word is nowhere extant in Greek or Roman literature, though the words nitrum and natron are no doubt in their origin identical.

The word neter occurs twice in the Bible. It is described as an alkali, which was used as soap: "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much sope, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God" (Jerem. ii. 22); and "As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart" (Proverbs. xv. 22)

Herodotus mentions nitrum as litron in his description of the embalming of dead bodies as practised in Egypt. Pliny repeatedly speaks of nitrum, and Galen records that it was burnt to strengthen its qualities. This would have had no effect if applied to saltpetre. There is no doubt that, had the ancients known saltpetre, its oxydizing properties would soon have been discovered by them, which is the most important step towards the invention of gunpowder.

The word natron was introduced into Europe from the East by some European scholars who had been travelling there about the middle of the sixteenth century, and who had thus become acquinted with this salt; and though the word natron was originally used there for denoting saltpetre, its other form nitrum has been since assigned it; however, as we have seen, the nitrum of the ancients is quite different from our nitre, which is saltpetre (potassium nitrate).

Native saltpetre, i.e., saltpetre produced by entirely natural processes is very scarce, so much so that the inventor of nickel, Freiherr Axel Friedrich von Cronstedt (1722-65) was unacquainted with it. It is found especially in India, Egypt, and in some parts of America Since the introduction of gunpowder in European warfare saltpetre has been manufactured wherever native saltpetre could not be obtained in sufficient quantities. It was obtained from the efflorescence on walls (sal murale) and other sources; this exudation, together with all the other artificial modes of producing saltpetre, became a perquisite of the sovereign, and this saltpetre regale grew in time into as obnoxious a burden to the people as the hunting regale. The saltpetre regale is first mentioned as having been exercised in 1419 by Gunther, Archbishop of Magdeburg. –

The little knowledge possessed by the ancients of chemical science, their utter ignorance of chemical analysis, accounts for their not improving, or rather for their not being able to improve the materials at their disposal and discovering the natural qualities of the different alkalis in their possession.

Throughout India saltpetre is found, and the Hindus are well acquainted with all its properties; it is even commonly prescribed as a medicine. India was famous for the exportation of saltpetre, and is still so. The Dutch, when in India, traded especially in this article.

In Bengal it is gathered in large masses wherever it effloresces on the soil, more particularly after the rainy season. In the "Sukraniti" saltpetre is called suvarcilavana, well shining salt. The Dhanvantari-nighantu describes saltpetre as a tonic, as a sonchal salt; it is also called tilakam (black), krsnalavanam and kalalavanam. It is light, shiny, very hot in digestion and acid. It is good for indigestion, acute stomach ache, and constipation. It is a common medical prescription.

2. Sulphur, the second ingredient of gunpowder, is also found in India, especially in Scind; it is, and was, largely imported into India from the East. It is well known and received its name from its smell, being called gandha or gandhaka smell, or in this case as it has not a good smell, rather from its stench. Its quality differs with its color, according as it is white, red, yellow, or bluish. Though sulphur is a very important part of gunpowder, gunpowder is in some parts of India even prepared without it. Sulphur was always in great demand in India, and in medicine it is often made use of.

(to be continued)

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TO

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SANSKRIT RESEARCH, MYSORE-4

Dear Mr. Josyer:

I ask you herewith for delivery to me of one copy of the book Maharshi Bharadwaja's "Vaimanika Sastra" if it is realy written parallelly in Sanskrit and in English.

Enclose, please, your bill with the bank-account because I dare pay only through the National Bank of Poland in USA-dolars. Accept, please, my thanks and friendly greetings.

Yours Sincerely
Z. LELIGDOWICZ

Lic Dr. Mahabir Shripal Maharaj
Academia Internacional De Parapsicologia inc.
Caracas 104-Venezuela, South America,

Dear Esteemed Brother,

Yesterday I received happily your three books, and all of them to me are specially important and useful.

Who in this modern world with their still enfant advance of science would ever imagine the contents of a book like Vymmanika Shaastra existed, although as I hinted before that they are not new or strange to me because of the personal contacts I have had with SOULS like Viswamintra, Vasista-Muni, Narada etc., as I alone KNOW what I am saying.

Sincerely yours,
LIC. DR. MAHABIR SHRIPAL MAHARAJ

Indiana, U.S.A.
906 Bellevue Place
Kokomo, In 46901
2-2-78

Mr. G. R. Josyer,

Have often thought of you and your research. Found your books very interesting and meaningful. They have a special place in my library. We have appreciated receipt of the Rationalist issues with my articles. We have since sent others for consideration, then realized that we did not provide transportation fees for our copy. We have received cataclysm manuscript. Thank you. And our earlier letter, too, thank you. Since then we have sent several others for use if you wish. I've enclosed a check to hopefully cover postage of copies of other manuscripts used. I've enclosed another MS for your consideration. I'd appreciate at least one copy of each publication of those used since cataclysm MS.

Have you found any new concepts in your research that you can share? Your work is very important.

My best to you in your important works. I think of you often.

Peace, Joy and Joy of God be ever with you.

DR. RONALD P. ANJARD.

* * * *

[Dr. Ronald P. Anjard is recognised as a notable American of the Bicentenary Era. He sends us a piece of his writings which we gladly publish. Editor]

* * * *

"Do you know yourself? Are you the same person you were 7 years ago? No! Within this 7 year period, you have completely rebuilt your body. True! Every cell has been replaced by a new one.

Look at your garden or your house plants. You know your plants are alive. Now look at the wall, a door or even a rock. They appear to be solid. But, they're "alive", because they are in motion too. Everything is composed of atoms, and their components are in constant motion. The air and the gases you don't see also have atoms as you know.

Even our universe is in motion. In addition to the well known orbits of planets around our sun, everything in the universe is in motion too. Although our sun appears to be stationary, it is really speeding through space at approximately 12 miles per second, or over 43,000 miles per hour! And, our entire galaxy is in motion! Fantastic but true. Not only our sun, but the stars, planets and even comets are also hurtling through space All these bodies are moving through space on a definite path.

Thus, we are trying to simply show you that everything in our entire universe—regardless of size, location or apparent state as we perceive it,—is in motion. If you carefully consider these facts, you will also discover that everything, yes, everything.... the plants, gas, the rock, the wall, you and me—everything is energy.

Thus, everything in our universe is energy in motion. These concepts may be disconcerting to some. But, to others, it shows the wonder and greatness of God !"

10 Orchard Street
Auckland. 7
New Zealand.

Dear Mr. Josyer

Feel awful not letting you know how things are progressing this end. Unceremoniously have most of this last year been neck deep in research. As I am planning to get started on assembling all the material I have gathered & reduce it all so it can become the subject of a book which have desperately more than ever imperatively slogging encouragingly to bring to completion. It's far from the simplest of tasks. Really I won't be sorry when it's all over. Though I'd inwardly probably will experience a nice warm feeling bursting forth whenever I catch sight of it in some book store!

The research I am evaluating covers virtually the encompassing field of free energy. This ranges from life forces through to perpetual motion. Science is embarrassingly only now being discreetly honest enough to admit that there may be more to the atom in its construction, lavishly liberally interlaced with an impenetrable barricade of forces, & it's relatively recently an interest is being taken to determine the family to which these belong One point they are all unanimous ab' it, these don't fit into the electromagnetic spectrum. Some have been so courageously bold in guessing these maybe more attributed to do with the mind! which would probably explain why sorcery & magic operates so unfailingly & with purposeful intention when the prescribed set of conditions are activated. So whatever I write about will assuredly pivot on what I can for my own education chance to come across now, that have got round to deciphering through the material I have, much of which when boiled down will if anything show the kinship existing between ufology & radiesthesia (psycho-kinetics). On more occasions than I can remember on reading through ufo literature reference is made to radiesthesia, & it is this I wish to highlight among other things in setting out my manuscript. Now that the year is about over it is even more important I get it ready for placing before the public. The volume on aeronautics is simply full of verbal sayings when studied ostensibly means much of it's to do with radiations associated with mind, channelling the life force!

It only seems as if I wrote to you earlier in the year. If you are anything like my old man (dad!) I'll wager you'll be round for a good many years yet! It's a written message when you have a mission to fulfil it has to be brought forth, & then if you wish you can drift off content in knowing you have attained your goal!

Like I said if given the chance I would gladly stop off & see how much of a change has taken place since departing from India, recall 15-20 years ago. Thanks for pointing out my mistake on the Anglo-Indian aspect. You'd be amazed the veritable number of people (Europeans) who held steadfast to the notion that because they were raised there that makes them Anglo-Indians! I can now joke about it & say they are not.

How has the piecing together of "Gems" been coming along! Making any headway in that direction? What up to now has been translated, & when do you estimate it

will be attractively finished. If you have a few spare sheets I can cast my eye on so as I can get a gist of what we are lingeringly witheld from, jadedly kept in suspense. Well I hope all goe's well with you & that I shall see you around for a good many more productive years. Shall also look forward to wishing you all the best for Christmas & may it be all that you could possibly wish it to be, peace & brotherhood !

Sincerely Yours
R. (ASHLEY) FALK

[Mr. R. Ashley Falk's parents were in India before Independence, and migrated to Australia and New Zealand. Ed.]

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

3. Charcoal is the third component part of gunpowder. Its constitution varies necessarily with the plants which in the different countries are used in its manufacture. In Prussia the coal of the alder, limetree, poplar, elder, willow, hemp, and hazel is used for powder. The charcoal of willow trees is especially esteemed on account of its excellent qualities. In the Sukraniti the arka (Calatropis gigantea), the snuhi, snuhi or snuh (Euphorbia neriifolia), and the Rasona (Allium saticum) are given as the plants whose charcoal is best fitted for gunpowder.

The arka, gigantic swallow wort, is a common bush growing in great quantities all over the country. It has a very good fibre, and is regarded by the natives as possessing most powerful and useful qualities. If the arka is used with discretion when iron is being forged, it contributes greatly to the excellence of the Indian steel. It is applied against epilepsy, paralysis, dropsy, &c. Its milky juice is smeared on wounds. It is a common sight in India to see suffering people applying it. The root is also used against syphilis. Its charcoal is very light and much used for pyrotechnical preparations, and its qualities in this respect are so well known that every school boy is acquainted with them and prepares his own powder and mixture with this plant. Its name in Tamil is erukku, in Malayalam eruka, in Telugu jilledu, in Bengali akund, and in Hindustani mudar or ark.

(b) The snuhi, snuh, (triangular spurge, kalli in Malayalam, pasan kalli in Tamil, bontajammudu in Telugu, narashy, seyard in Hindustani and narsy in Bengali) grows like the arka in waste places all over the Indian Peninsula. The qualities of this plant for pyrotechnic displays are as well known as those of the Calatropis gigantea. Dried sticks of this plant are scarce. It is also widely used as a medicinal plant, externally against rheumatism, and internally as a purgative; it is given to children against worms.

(c) The rasona is a kind of garlic; the Marathi equivalent is lasuna. Its botanical name is Allium sativum.

The prescription for making gunpowder is, according to the Sukraniti, as follows: mix 5 parts of saltpetre with 1 part of sulphur and 1 part of charcoal. The charcoal is to be prepared from the arka, snuhi, and other similar plants in such a manner that during the process the plants are so covered that the smoke cannot escape. The

charcoal thus obtained must be cleaned, reduced to powder, and the powder of the different charcoals is then to be mixed. After this has been done, the juice of the arka, snuhi, and rasona must be poured over the powder which is to be thoroughly mixed with this juice. This mixture is to be exposed and dried in the sun. It is then finally ground like sugar, and the whole mixture thus obtained is gunpowder !

The proportion of saltpetre varies, as some take 4 or 6 parts instead of 5, but the quantities of sulphur and charcoal remain unaltered. These two are the usual recipes. Nevertheless the mixture is often changed when the gunpowder is to be of a particular color or if it has to serve a special purpose. The three principal ingredients are mixed in different proportion, and realgar, opiment, graphite, vermilion, the powder of magnetic iron oxide, camphor, lac, indigo, and pinegum are added to the compound according as they are required.

It seems peculiar that gun-powder should not have been mentioned in Sanskrit works, but this is not an isolated instance of the silence observed in them on matters of historical importance. It is most probable that the very common occurrence of gunpowder interfered with its being regarded as something extraordinary and worth mentioning. The actual mode of preparing the different sorts of gunpowder may, on the other hand, have been kept a secret in certain classes, and such a state of affairs coincides with the Indian system of caste. Explosive powder either used for rejoicings as fireworks or for discharging projectiles was known in India from the earlist period, and its preparation was never forgotten ; but as India occupied in ancient times such an isolated position, it is no singular that the knowledge of this compound did not earlier extend to other countries.

(to be continued)

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I. G. R. Josyer, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date 6-3-1978.

G. R. Josyer
Publisher,

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M A. HONS .F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer,

New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

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"NYLON THINGS"

For a long time employees of a loan bank in Swindon (England) could not understand why their computer gave erroneous data whenever it was approached by one young woman. The reason was finally found : she was wearing nylon things. And synthetic fibres accumulate a charge of static electricity which prevents the computer from functioning normally.

POSH WARDROBE

One modest housewife in the French town of Toulon had a posh wardrobe of 1,000 dresses ! But when she decided to get the 1,001st, she lost all of them. This time she was caught redhanded in a department store. The court confiscated everything she had stolen before !

BRITAIN'S WOES

One of the British M.P.s recently said that 1977 would go down as a record year in what concerned resignations from the British police. The number to have left the force of their own free will by the end of the year was about 2,000. The reason was the demands made on the police in public order matters, such as the Grunwick dispute, plus the high cost of living and unsatisfactory pay levels.

MORE EXPORTS ?

There is a new law in the United States under which corporations bribing foreign government officials in an effort to obtain export business may be fined upto $ 1 million, while their officers and directors face five years in prison and fines of up to $ 10,000 each. A retired corporation officer, says that he looks at the payments "as necessary to sell a product," that they are a "commission", which is part of a normal commericial deal. He should know. When he was Lockheed's chief operating officer, the corporation paid the middlemen of different countries a sum of $ 138 million in "commission"! It now remains to be seen what will be stronger : the new law or the immutable law of "free enterprise" which says you must grease the hand if you want to sell anything !

No corruption, no exports. No exports, no development !

Editor,

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

However wonderful the composition and however startling the detonating effect of powder may be to the uninitiated outsider, to those who have been familiar with them from their earliest youth all seems natural and intelligible. India is the land of fireworks; no festival is complete without them, and as the materials for their manufacture are all indigenous, and of easy access, there is no difficulty in gratifying such desires.

In an extract taken from the Mujmalut Tawarikh—which was translated in 1126 from the Arabic, into which language it had been translated a century previously from a Sanskrit original—we read: "that the Brahmans counselled Hal to have an elephant made of clay and to place it in the van of his army, and that when the army of the king of Kashmir drew nigh, the elephant exploded, and the flames destroyed a great portion of the invading force. Here we have not only the simple act of explosion, but something very much like a fuze, to enable the explosion to occur at a particular time."

Vaisampayana mentions among the things to be used against enemies smoke-balls, which contained most likely gunpowder, and which were according to the explanation proposed by his commentator made of gunpowder.

The following stanza, which is taken from the Rajalaksminarayana-hrdaya, a part of the Atharvanarahasya, is no doubt a clear proof of the fact that the Hindus were familiar with gunpowder at a very remote period: "As the fire prepared by the combination of charcoal, sulphur, and other material depends upon the skill of its maker so also may thou, O! representative of knowledge (Laksmi), by the application of my faith manifest thyself quickly according to my wish."

The Sanskrit word for gunpowder is agnichurna, firepowder, which is occasionally shortened into churna. The Dravidian languages have all one and the same word for medicine and gunpowder; in Tamil marundu, in Telugu mandu, in Kanarese maddu, and in Malayalam maruna. Occasionally the word gun (tupaki) is prefixed to remove any doubt as to what powder is meant. In Malayalam, the word vedi, which means explosion, is prefixed. The Chinese crackers are called by the Tamulians Sini vedi—Chinese crackers—to distinguish them from the Indian crackers. The word marundu is most probably derived from the Sanskrit past participle mardita, pounded, in the sense of different ingredients being pounded together, as a medicine powder. The meaning of gunpowder is then in a special sense derived from this general expression. The dravidian equivalent of churna is Sunnambu in Tamil, Sunnamu in Telugu, chalk.

From the subject of gunpowder we now turn to the weapon, to which it is applied, i.e., to the firearms.

Two kinds of firearms are described in the Sukraniti, one is of small size and the other is of large size. The former is five spans long, has at the breech a perpendicular and horizontal hole, and sights at the breech and muzzle end of the tube. Powder is placed in the vent, near which is a stone, which ignites the powder by being struck. Many dispense with this flint. The breech is well

wooded and a ramrod compresses the powder and ball before the discharge. This small musket is carried by foot-soldiers.

A big gun has no wood at its breech; moves on a wedge in order to be directed towards the object to be shot at, and it is drawn on cars.

The distance which the shot travels depends upon the strength of the material from which the gun is made, upon the circumference of the hole, and the gun's compactness and size. The ball is either of iron or lead or of any other material. Some big balls have smaller ones inside. The gun itself is generally of iron, occasionally also, as we have seen in the Nitiprakasika, of stone. The gun is to be kept clean and must be always covered.

The term used for gun nalika (nalika, nalika) is derived from the word nala (nala), a reed, a hollow tube, which is another form for its synonyms nada, nadi, or nadi; in the same way nalika corresponds to nadika. Considering that the guns were in ancient times made out of bamboo, and that some bamboo guns are still used in Burmah, the name appears both appropriate and original. That the idea of bamboo being the original material for guns was still in the mind of the author of the Sukraniti seems to be indicated by his calling the outside of the stock of a gun bark (tvak.)

The gun is very seldom mentioned in Sanskrit writings, and even where it has been mentioned the meaning of those passages has been generally misunderstood. In all European Sanskrit dictionaries the word nalika or nalika has been rendered as stalk, tube; arrow, dart, &c., but the third signification gun is not given; though it is one which is known to every learned Pandit. At the outset every body can easily see that the meaning of arrow and of gun can be rightly applied to a read; the arrow is a read which is discharged as a missile, and a gun is a reed out of which missiles are shot.

In the slokas 21 and 24 of our extract of the Sukraniti we read that a king should keep on a big war chariot two large guns, and in sl. 31 we are further informed that his beautiful iron chariot should be furnished with a couch, a swing, and among other things also with sundry arms and projectile weapons. This tallies with an account concerning the fortifications of Manipura, as described in Mr. J. Talboys Wheeler's "History of India:" On the outside of the city were a number of wagons bound together with chains, and in them were placed fireworks and fire weapons, and men were always stationed there to keep guard." This statement is very important, and if substantiated would be of the greatest weight in this inquiry; but none of the Sanskrit Manuscripts of the Mahabharata which I have searched contains this Sloka. However the above mentioned statement appears to rest on good authority, as the Sukraniti declares, that the wall of a fortress "is always guarded by sentinels, is provided with guns and other projectile weapons, and has many strong bastions with proper loop-holes and ditches."

In the second stavaka of the Bharatacampu composed by Anantabhatta, some three hundred years ago, we find the following simile: "The fierce warrior who killed his enemy with heaps of leaden balls, which emerge quickly from the gun lighted by a wick, is like the rainy season which killed the summer with hailstones which descend quickly from the rows of black clouds lighted by lightning."

(to be continued)

MY ROOTS ARE ETERNAL

by Dr. Ron Anjard, Indiana, U.S.A.
(or by Nepeture Cunpeturka)

It's important that so many are concerned with their heritage. But I'd like to expand this normal concept. My primary roots are based on my own personal experiences throughout many centuries of learning. These previous lifetimes affect my talents, interests, abilities, as well as fears and concerns in this life by an extension of consciousness. True, my presentday experiences are important... they add to the past to help me progress. But my past lifetimes are truly my most important roots. This may seem to be an unusual approach. But I have been researching this aspect of self for many years to help understand who and why I am. And this is the true import of searching and finding one's own roots.

Before I describe selected past existances, let me present a broader view of my roots as I know them today. I must add that each of us, in my understanding, has own roots from which we derive our talents, interests and fears.

1950's—American, Caucasian, Male, Metallurgical Engineer; author in technology, philosophy, psychology and religion; importer; teacher; active in community-religion, politics and service. Past elected official.

1850's—Canada Caucasian, Male, Priest with special teaching: a leader, service.

1800's—France, Caucasian, Male, Political organizer to fight corruption in Government and church; teacher; had to flee France to Canada.

1750's—England, Caucasian, Male, Metal worker in ship-yard.

1700's West Africa, Black Male, Slaver (need I say more?)

1650's—Spain, Caucasian, Male, Trader, advanturer teacher, leader.

1600—South America, Indian. Male, Inca farmer.

1550's—Russia, Caucasian, Male, Difficult life.

1450's—Germany, Caucasian, Male, Farmer.

1400's—Tibet, Oriental, Male, A religious life.

1350's—Mexico, Indian, Male, Aztec, who mined gold near Mexico City.

1250's—Southwest (U.S.A.), Indian, Female, A Navajo woman who died early in life.

1150's—China, Oriental, Male, Buddhist Priest and political organizer, Several Mayan lifetimes-including priest.

300's—Roman, Caucasian, Male, Roman soldier.

100's—Greek, Caucasian, Male, Poor Farmer.

50's BC—Roman, Caucasian, Male, Roman officer and metal worker for religious wares.

1000-2500's BC—Egyptian, Caucasian, Male, Several lives including scribe.

3700's BC—Tibetian Oriental, Male, Monk, dedicated to spiritual studies.

Refer now to the life in Canada, 1850's. Born to a lumberjack and lovely Indian; became a priest and sent to a special school. Was sent to the U.S.A. on a Mission. Died about 40 years ago. Now for the life in France as Reanau de Nice about the time of the French Revolution. Because I disagreed with my father's graft and dishonesty, my own ideals were "flamed". Actually formed groups under own leadership to fight graft in Government and Church. With the great unrest this work had impact and spread in Northern France. With my entire family in danger, fled to Canada. Settled there, raised sheep and traded with Indians.

In Spain as Volair Ramerez about 1650, organized groups and for years traveled as a merchant and adventurer throughout the world. Now, finally as Mejing Malong in the Himalayan Mountains about 3700BC, was chosen to study in a monastery. Here developed spiritual understandings.

So here you have it. You'll note that I have been both Male and Female, have been every race and have lived in many areas of the world. Some experiences were good while some were not. You'll see common trends of today's life in many of the past lives. In fact, all the major interests and activities reflect the past very strongly. There are of course many other aspects of this continuing consciousness with which we will not deal at this time.

Yes, my parents and their parents left me with important traditions and roots that I truly treasure. But I propose that there are even greater roots. Those roots are those I planted myself, which have nourished and grew. The tree of life is my tree of life and it's your tree of life. When we learn who we were, we can better learn who we are and why. What really counts, though, is how we are Now!

RONALD P. ANJARD
Box. 2008
Kokomo, Indiana 46901

Dr. Ron Anjard Justifies the conclusion of ancient Rishis about the Transmigration of souls, just as "Shankara-Vijaya" does.

Editor

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MYTH OF WELFARE STATES

The words "unemployment" and "youth" are ever more frequently placed together in newspaper and magazine headlines. "Britain's young generation has risen against society" says the British press with alarm, "Nobody Employs Them," runs a heading in West Germany DER STERN. The same is stated by French, Italian, Belgian and Netherland newspapers and magazines. Below are some figures, given by U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

WASHINGTON. As many as 3,600,000 young Americans search for a job every day.

LONDON. There are 600,000 unemployed in Britain under the age of 25.

ROME, There are 1,200,000 young unemployed in Italy.

PARIS. 45 per cent of school leavers cannot find a job.

BONN. Student organizations say there are some 500,000 unemployed in West Germany under the age of 25.

There are 7,000,000 young unemployed in industrialized capitalist countries. Bourgeois society has granted them the "freedom" of being odd in their countries !

(IZVESTIA)

PRECEPT AND PRACTICE

British Transport Minister launched a campaign with the theme "Think before you drink before you drive", shortly before Christmas. Nearly 12,000 drivers involved in accidents failed the breathalyzer test last year, he said, and one-third of drivers killed in accidents were found to have blood-alcohol levels above the legal limit. Ten minutes later the British Transport Minister who was driving his own car, underwent a breath test, and it showed the he had alcohol in his blood !

BODY VALUE

Everybody is worth more because of inflation, says the United Press International. Estimating the value of the human body's chemical elements—oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, carbon and others—at the current market prices, a staff physician at the Monsanto Chemical Company, has come to the conclusion that they are now worth $5.60 compared to only 98 cents in 1936 !

ASIA'S PAST

(Continued)

By 15 million years ago the development of the zone of gneisses and schists was considerably advanced to allow the southern segment of the Indian lithospheric block to start underthrusting.

By five million years ago it had underthrust both the original northern segments of the Indian crust (not lithophere); where underthrusting took place there was of course a double layer of crust. After the Indian block started to underthrust, the swift uplift had commenced in the Himalaya, and areas in Tibet originally at or proximate to sea-level were raised almost 5 kms to form the Tibetan plateau. The upgrowing Himalayas cast a thick wedge of coarse clastics (rock) back into the Indo-Gangetic plains. Gneisses and schists continued to form during the underthrusting; in fact the rising Himalayas had attained its present elevation only recently. Geologically speaking, the Himalayas are still growing. Scientists have reported the analysis of limestones collected from the summit of Mount Everest and down its north slope over the last decade. The limestones have been dated employing the radioactive decay of uranium into lead as stopwatch. This showed they were laid down between 410 and 575 million years ago presumably on the floor of the Tethys Ocean that lay between India and Asia.

They were deposited in shallow water probably on continental shelf that fringed the north side of the continent that became India. Association of that shelf with India rather than Asia is indicated by the finding north of Everest of fossil vegetation typical of India during the coal-forming period 300 million years ago. At that remote geological past, it is now believed India was far from Asia and joined with Australia, Africa, South America and Antarctica into the supercontinent Gondwanaland.

The new concept of drifting continents is now widely given credence. It may be noted here that China is also divided into two strikingly different regions-the west by lofty north-west tending ranges and basins presumably formed by the pressure exerted by India from the southwest. In the east the significant formations of land, mostly buried, consist of cyclopean blocks that have been lifted or depressed by the compression of the whole region.

The subsided regions during the bygone geological times when the writ of the Dinosaurs ran through the length and breadth of the globe 170 million years ago were lakes some of whose waters had high degree of salinity beneath which the deepest oilwells had formed.

The organic material in the sediment was converted into oil with the aid of the terrific volcanic heat generated as the region was squeezed. In some cases the subsidence was of mammoth dimensions and the resultant oil-bearing formations have a thickness of three to four miles and more.

According to the new theory the compression of this region took place as floor of the Pacific had pushed northwest against China and the offshore islands, while the bed of the prehistoric ocean carrying India on it pressed northwest against Central Asia. Even from the early exploration of the Himalayas it was established they were chiefly formed of oceanbed material.

Geologists after scaling Mt Everest and scanning the remote regions of Central Asia have come to the irresistibe conclusion that Asia is the product of myriad continental collisions, one of which is still crumpling and twisting the landscape. The U.S. Scientists studying our planet from space have also reached similar conclusion.

The successive continental collisions have produced the largest continents, highest mountains and the loftiest plateaus on this earth. This process has endowed China with some of the richest oil deposits of the world. Contrary to classic theory the oil had been formed not from marine deposits but under lakebeds.

The U.S. geologists have stated that recent findings had led them to believe that the concept of moving continents unravel such new riddles as the parallel mountain ranges that crop across Central Asia, spanning 1200 miles from the Himalayas north to the Atlai mountains of Mongolia. Asia's highly complicated and hitherto baffling pattern of earthquake activity is now viewed as a manifestation of the movements of the crust on a massive scale.

Sections of the earth's crust are being pushed in different directions by the northward drift of India, just like the scattering of icefloes by the forward motion of an icebreaker.

A wealth of evidence of the northward drift of India has been obtained by the scientists of the Southampton after analysing 44 samples dug from a hole in the Indian Ocean some 2500 km. south of India. They obtained the basalt samples through a deep-sea drilling project from a hole near the southern edge of the Indian plateau. The scientists reached the conclusion that India might have reached very close to its present position as early as 35 million years ago in the early Oligocene period.

Writing about this in Nature they said that 40 million years ago India was moving northward at a speed of 26 centimetres a year but the speed had diminished to 16 cms 20 million years ago.

The theory of crustal movements is also buttressed both by the earthquake analysis and from the pictures taken by the earth resources technology satellite sent into orbit by the U.S. Enormous displacements along Central Asia are indicated.

In one picture a 25-mile displacement is perfectly obvious and an aggregate shift as great as 250 miles might have occurred along the Altyn Tagh fault between Tibet and inner Mongolia in China and this fault can be seen in space photos across half the width of China.

Its effects on the landscape are remarkably like those of the San Andres fault of California which is responsible for the greatest earthquakes of California.

T. RAJAGOPALAN.

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

While the verse just quoted from the Bharatacampu reveals an intimate knowledge of firearms, yet its apparent recentness may be alleged as an objection against its being produced as an authority for the existence of firearms in India at an early period. To obviate such further objections a sloka will now be given from an undoubted early poem, the Naisadha which describes the adventures of Nala and is generally ascribed to one Sriharsa, a Brahman, who must not be confounded with Sriharsa, the king of Kasmira. Its date goes back to the twelfth century, i.e., before the introduction of firearms into Europe. The verses in question run as follows: "The two bows of Rati and Manmatha (Cupid) are certainly like her (Damayanti's) two brows, which are made for the conquest of the world; the two guns of those two (Rati and Manmatha) who wish to throw balls on you, are like her (Damayanti's) two elevated nostrils." To leave no doubt that guns are meant here, the learned commentator Mallinaatha explains nalika as the Dronicaapa, the projectile weapon from which the Dronicapaastra, a dart or a ball is discharged, an expression we have already noticed in Vaisampayana's Nitiprakaasika.

On the other hand it is doubtful whether the asani missile, which was given by Indra to Arjuna and which made when discharged a noise like a thunder-cloud, alludes to firearms, as Von Bohlen explains it.

In the first book of the Sukraniti we find it stated that the royal watchmen, who are on duty about the palace, carry firearms. The Kamandakiya, acknowledged as one of the earliest works on Nitisastra, says that "Confidential agents keeping near the king should rouse him by stratagems, gunfiring and other means, when he is indulging in drinking bouts, among women, or in gambling." It seems from this statement that the practice of firing guns as signals was in vogue among the ancient Hindus, if we can trust the evidence of one of the older Sanskrit writings.

In the preface to a Code of Gentoo Laws, or Ordinances of the Pundits, occurs the following passage: "It will no doubt strike the reader with wonder to find a prohibition of firearms in records of such unfathomable antiquity; and he will probably from hence renew the suspicion which has long been deemed absurd, that Alexander the Great did absolutely meet with some weapons of that kind in India as a passage in Quintus Curtius seems to ascertain. Gunpowder has been known in China, as well as in Hindustan, far beyond all periods of investigation. The word firearms is literally Sanskrit Agnee-aster, a weapon of fire; they describe the first species of it to have been a kind of dart or arrow tipt with fire and discharged upon the enemy from a bamboo. Among several extraordinary properties of this weapon, one was, that after it had taken its flight, it divided into several separate darts or streams of flame, each of which took effect, and which, when once kindled, could not be extinguished; but this kind of agnee-aster is now lost. Cannon in the Sanskrit idiom is called Shata-ghnee, or the weapon that kills a hundred men at once, from (Shata) a hundred, and (ghnee) to kill; and the Puran Shastras, or Histories, ascribe the invention of these destructive engines to Vishwakarma, the architect who is related to have forged all the weapons for the war which was maintained in the Sattya yuga

between Devta and Ossoor (or the good and bad spirits) for the space of one hundred years."

And again we read in page 53 of the same works: "The Magistrate shall not make war with any deceitful machine, or with poisoned weapons, or with cannon and guns, or any other kind of firearms; nor shall he slay in war a person born an eunuch, or any person who putting his hands together supplicates for quarter, nor any person who has no means of escape, nor any man who is sitting down, nor any person who says, 'I am become of your party,' nor any man who is asleep, nor any man who is naked, nor any person who is not employed in war, nor any person who is come to see the battle, nor any person who is fighting with another, nor any person whose weapons are broken, nor any person who is wounded, nor any person who is fearful of the fight, nor any person who runs away from the battle"

As these passages are so often quoted without their origin being stated, it may at once be remarked that the prescription about the use of arms and the treatment of persons is a free translation from the seventh book of the Institutes of Manu, vv. 90–93.

The important question at issue is, does this passage in Manu refer to firearms or not? In our opinion it certainly alludes to them, but still others prefer to apply it strictly to darts blazing with fire. The original words in Manu are:

Na kutair aayudhair hanyaat yudhyamaano rane ripun |
Na karnibhir naapi digdhair naagnijvalita-tejanaih ||

"No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with barbed arrows, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with darts kindled by fire." Kullukabhatta, the latest commentator of Manu, favors by his explanation the opinion of those who take this passage in the sense "as darts blazing with fire." But then the questions arise, whether Kullukabhatta, who lived about four hundred years ago, expresses the whole meaning of the sentence, or whether Manu, though mentioning only ignited arrows, does not rather allude to firearms in general? The translation found in Dr. Monier Williams' Sanskrit English Dictionary under agnijvalitatejana, 'having a point hardened in fire', is quite beyond the mark. It means ignited by fire.

The meaning of arrow (sara, baana) is much wider than is generally supposed. It was, and became more so in time, the usual term for any missile, whether it had the shape of an arrow or not; in the same way as the word Dhanu signified in course of time every missile or weapon, so that the Dhanurveda, the knowledge of the bow comprised the knowledge of all other arms.

For instance, the shot out of a gun is called a sara, as we have seen when describing the nalika, but it may be a ball and not an arrow. A rocket is generally styled a bana (compare the Hindi term bana rocket); and banapattrai in Tamil, or banapatra in Telugu denotes a gunpowder or firework factory.

A comparison of the context of the Manavadharmasastra with those of the Sukraniti and the Nitiprakasika makes it clear that Manu alludes to firearms. The Sukraniti runs in our extract as follows:—

277. A king, bearing in mind the six principles of policy and the designs of his enemy and his own, should always kill his enemy by fair and unfair fighting.

(to be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS., F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

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POOR FATHER !

A Dutch court recently passed a suspended sentence upon a man for listing his son as a daughter in the city's birth register in 1970. Asked why he did it, the man told the court that he wanted to keep his son from being drafted into the army when he reached the age of 18 !

COOING DOVES !

In one of the plays by Anatole France the hero, driven desperate by his wife's loquacity, gets doctors to make him deaf The Texas multimillionaire who found himself in a similar plight, chose anothe way out. He dons an aqualung and takes refuge in his private swimming pool. "And in the meantime," he told a reporter, "my wife stands at the edge of the pool and talks to her heart's content !"

ROBOT

For three months a robot named "Norman" underwent a test in the Pentagon as mail-delivey man. According to specialist, it proved to be equal to the task. Nevertheless, it was rejected. According to regulations even within the Pentagon walls, only armed men can deliver classified papers. And "Norman" does not know to shoot.

WELL THOUGHT OUT

Two well-dressed men walked into one of the fancier nursing homes in New York purportedly to take a 90-year-old woman out for an afternoon airing. Soon afterward they were seen solicitously wheeling her out of the building. Some time later, however, she was found sitting in her wheelchair, abandoned at a street corner ! Her ostensibly helpful visitors had vanished—together with the electric typewriter they had apparently hidden under a blanket on her lap !

POLICE WITNESSES

Recent studies in Britain and the United States suggest that policemen are in many cases worse witnesses and observers than civilians, despite their careful training. The Cambridge University Applied Psychology Unit showed civilians and police a film of a street scene from which they were asked to detect crimes, such as theft. The results of the test were not in favour of the policemen ! In the course of similar experiments in the United States, the guardians of the law reported twice as many incorrect facts as the civilians !

The Problem of Wealth

[This literary piece was written and published as a pamphlet 60 years ago in 1918, and was very much appreciated. It is reprinted at the desire of some readers.

We are surprised to see that the pamphlet after 60 years is beginning to bear fruit !]

Among the Goddesses who grace the glorious pantheon of the Hindus, there is one, who is the most coveted, the most popular, and the most beauteous, Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth. To her is an altar raised in every home, and her famous picture by the great Ravi Varma—her hands poised on an elephant and a swan on either side, her feet forming the crown and summation of a full-blown and blushing lotus, and her face working itself into a bewitching and precious smile—is to be seen in every house. But not the picture itself, but the concrete WEALTH of which the Goddess is an abstraction and a myth, is it present in every home? Or even if it is present there, is it present in the pockets of the homeless? And, even if so, is it present in the hands of those whose clothes are in too much rags to have pockets? And last, is it present with those who have not been blessed with hands, or, having been blessed have lost them? If it is not, then, should not the great wise Governments of the world consider it a paramount duty of theirs to righten the wrongs so far as the inhabitants of their States are concerned, and should not the intelligent and intellectual few of each State help it in erasing the material inequalities in the social scale?

It is a question which the distinguished Financial Secretary to Government may well "tackle", and bring out a solution. But since that has not happened, it is given for any one else to do so. If we borrow for a moment the Oriental imagination of the Financial Secretary, (Mr. J. S. Chakravarthy I.F.S.) and Occidentalise it a bit, we might say that, in the present case, the modern Financial Secretaries are like the classical dragon who guarded Andro meda in the inhuman cave in the classical times, or the demons who carried away fair women and imprisoned them in deserted castles in the medieval romance; and ourselves like Perseus who fought with the dragon and released fair Andromeda, or the gallant knight who broke through demons and barred castle gates, and brought the joy of freedom into the hearts of captive maidens !

It was a truth recognised by writers of the Sanskrit times, that Fortune, like Love, was blind, and that it was fickle like the drops of glittering water on the lotus leaf; and that the heart of the Goddess of wealth was fickle like the ripple of the restless ocean-wave. On that account have Indian writers preached the doctrine of pessimism, and been accused to-day of a failure to recognise the full happiness of worldly blessings. Worldly blessings indeed ! A western writer, too, of notable standing, remarks of wealth: "Of colossal fortunes only a very small fraction can truly be said to minister to the personal enjoyment of the owner. The disproportion in the world between pleasure and cost, is indeed almost ludicrous. The two or three shillings that gave us our first Shakespeare, would go but a small way towards providing one of the perhaps untasted dishes on the dessert table. The choicest master-pieces of the human mind, the works of human genius through the long course of centuries, which have done most to ennoble, console, brighten, and direct, the lives of men, might all be purchased-I do not say by the cost of a lady's necklace, but by that of one or two of the little stones of which it is composed. Compare the relish with which the tired pedestrian eats his bread and cheese, with the appetite with which men sit down to some stately banquet; compare the level of spirits at the village dance, with that of the great City-ball whose

lavish splendour fills the society papers with admiration; compare the charms of conversation in the college common-room with the weary faces that may be often seen around the millionaire's dinner-table, and we may gain a good lesson of the VANITY OF HUMAN RICHES!"

But how few are they among us who realise this vanity! Crowns tumble, hoards vanish in a twinkle, millionaires die the foulest deaths, and yet men pine for wealth, or cast envious glances on the wealthy. Right from the beginning of the world, the fluctuations and the inequalities of wealth have been going on, and poets have said it, and philosophers have moralised on it, and yet humanity forgets the lessons that they meant to convey. Many of us, while conscious of the nightly blue heavens or the brilliant stars, or the blazing and ever-travelling sun, or the fickle moon, still go through life without knowing what it is all about. But this question of wealth is of more immediate moment to the every day man than the question of the celestials, and yet the average street-goer is heedless of it while his whole life is affected by it, talks glibly of Fate and past Karma, and there it all ends. Others might go further and enquire into it, and come ultimately to the conclusion that everything is alright in a world created by a just God. But others still might enquire, and their enquiry lead them to the bewildering doubt whether the great God is juct after all, and make them say, like the great eye-doctor in London who said that, had he been present at the Creation, he would have suggested some better way of creating the eye,-that the social arrngement of the world indicates a far from perfect potter. It is a bitter truth, which the more thoughtful among us recognise with dissatisfaction and dismay, that the wealth and comforts of this world are distributed among us without rhyme or reason, that we do not get what we deserve, that others get more than they deserve, and that even where the rights are the same the receipts are very unequal. On that account has one Sanskrit poet said with resignation: "That wealth does not come to virtuous men is a misfortune to itself!" Very, very few are the cases, if we take a survey of the wealth and poverty which are gathered around us, which we would be inclined to consider as a just dispensation of Divine favour. Sindbad the Sailor, and he the beggar, are not, except in an Arabian tale, so widely different, as to diserve their widely different fates as men and as fellow citizens. And even there we perceive that the rich Sindbad tried to appease the jealous complaints of his namesake beggar, by calling him in to food and trying to make him comfortable. How many modern Sindbads have the education and the nobility to conduct themselves with equal grace towards their poorer compeers! There is condescension sometimes, and mostly supercilious haughtiness on the one side, and there is bootless wailing or fawning, and angry and disdainful contempt on the other.

You will find that the Problem of Wealth is like the Problem of woman's Love. You cannot probe its birth, nor trace the direction of its course. It does not depend on a man's hungering wish for it, nor his efforts, nor need, nor virtue, nor even his physical beauty. The wind is said to blow where it listeth, but this wealth, like unfortunate woman's love, does not seem to know its own mind. O! God, how much undeserved poverty we see in this world, and how much ill-disposed wealth! This inharmony is brutal. Perhaps it ought not to be said so, because the brutes have no such distinctions of wealth. But none has fallen as the noblest of creation has fallen! Year after year Governments and interested Dewans strike averages, and find some satisfaction for themselves.

(To be continued)

ANCIENT INDIAN WEAPONS

(Continued)

278. When the king gladdens his soldiers on the march with a quarter extra pay, he protects his body in the battle with a shield and armour;

279. has induced his soldiers to drink up to a state of intoxication, the strengthener of bravery, the soldier kills his enemy with a gun, sword, and other weapons.

280. A charioteer should be assailed by a lance, a person on a carriage or elephant by an arrow, an elephant by an elephant, a horse by a horse.

281. A carriage is to be opposed by a carriage, and a foot soldier also by a foot soldier, one person by another person, a weapon by a weapon, or a missile by a missile.

282. He should not kill a person who is alighted on the ground, nor one who is emasculated, nor one who has joined his hands as a supplicant, nor one who sits with dishevelled hair, nor one who says "I am thine."

Then follow beginning with 282 up to 284 the same exceptions as found in Manu, VII, 91—93, and specified in Halhed's Code.

The Sukraniti goes then on stating expressly:

"286. These restrictions exist in fair, but not in unfair fighting; to ensure the destruction of a powerful enemy there is no fighting equal to unfair fighting.

287. Unfair fighting was certainly observed by Rama, Krsna, Indra, and other gods; Bali, Yavana, and Namuci were killed by unfair fighting."

We see thus that the Sukraniti is in direct opposition to the law code bearing Manu's name, and considering the estimation in which the latter was held, it can hardly be assumed that a member of the Brahmanic community—in which term I include all the three higher castes and the Sudras within its pale—could have dared to compose it after the text of the Manava-dharmasastra had once been finally settled as it stands to this day.

The Nitiprakasika coincides entirely with Manu, VII, 89, and in the first half of the 90th sloka, but differs in the second half of the 90th and the first half of the 91st sloka, and then agrees again, but this difference in two lines is of the greatest importance for our subject.

MANU, VII.	NITIPRAKASIKA VII.
89. Those rulers of the earth, who desirous of defeating each other, exert their utmost strength in battle without ever averting their faces, ascend after death directly to heaven.	44. The same.
90. No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with barbed arrows, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with darts kindled by fire.	45. No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with machines kindled by fire (guns), nor also with various stratagems.

(to be continued)

GIANTS FATTENING

New Delhi March 21–The turnover and profits of 45 large industrial houses had increased by 60 to 70 per cent, and in some cases nearly doubled in four years between 1972 and 1975, according to a statement attached to a written answer in the Lok Sabha today in reply to a question by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

The Tata Group heads the list of 45 companies, Birlas, Mafatlal, and J. K. Singhania coming next in that order.

The turnover of the Tatas increased from 689.91 crores to Rs. 1,060.04 crores, Birlas from Rs. 558 46 crores to Rs. 936.11 cr.

The turnover of Mafatlal Group had increased from Rs. 190.66 cr to Rs. 337 19 cr of Singhanias from Rs. 103.65 cr to Rs. 198.87 cr.

The position of other 41 large houses is as follows:

Thapar Group from Rs. 154.66 cr to Rs. 251.85 cr. Scindia Rs. 50.65 cr to Rs. 99.85 cr.

ICI—Rs. 149 07 cr to 238.78 cr Shriram–Rs. 176.48 cr to Rs. 241.08 cr.

ACC—Rs. 94.23 cr to Rs. 142.15 cr. Bangur – Rs. 142.10 cr to Rs. 210.35 cr.

Kirloskars—Rs. 76.05 cr to Rs. 181.99 cr. Larsen and Toubro—Rs. 55.70 cr to Rs. 108.92 cr.

Walchand—Rs. 103.77 cr to Rs. 162.62 cr. Khatau (Bombay) Rs. 107.71 cr to Rs. 193.18 cr.

India Tobacco-Rs. 236.58 cr to Rs. 367.04 cr Macneill and Magor–Rs. 112.12 cr to Rs. 97.68 cr Mahindra and Mahindra–74 26 cr to Rs. 162.02 cr Sarabhai–Rs. 98.69 cr to Rs. 162.02 cr.

Kasturbhai Lalbhai–Rs. 83.43 cr to Rs. 187.09 cr TVS Iyengar Rs. 80.90 cr to Rs. 138.87 cr.

Hindustan lever Rs. 187.85 cr to Rs. 234 cr. Bajaj Rs. 78.84 cr to Rs. 120.82 cr.

Modi–Rs. 94.06 cr to Rs. 180.88 cr Parry Rs. 71.31 cr to Rs. 149.26 cr Dunlop Rs. 194.48 cr to Rs. 181 97 cr.

Bhiwandiwala Rs. 44.92 cr to Rs. 47.02 cr Caltex Rs. 120.21 cr to Rs. 205.69 cr James Finlay Rs. 52.43 cr to Rs 83.78 cr GKW Rs. 62.53 cr to Rs. 93.03 cr.

Union Carbide Rs. 75.49 cr to Rs. 119.87 cr Bird Heilgers Rs. 73.20 cr to Rs. 108..0 cr Killick (Kapadia) Rs. 60.83 cr to Rs. 82.14 cr G. V. Naidu Rs. 40. 8 cr to Rs. 63.82 cr Brooke Bond Rs. 103.96 cr to Rs. 155.20 cr Godrej Rs. 49.28 cr to Rs. 86.25 cr Chowgule Rs. 20.45 cr to Rs. 37.53 cr Rallis Rs. 63.12 cr to Rs. 109.77 cr V. S. Dempo Rs. 11.13 cr to Rs. 2 .47 cr Phillips Rs 54.16 cr to Rs. 65.85 cr Simpson Rs. 47.17 cr to Rs. 67.12 cr Madhura Coats Rs. 51.14 cr to Rs. 58.38 cr Escorts Rs. 49.95 cr to Rs. 105.20 cr United Breweries Rs. 45.57 cr to Rs. 71.55 cr Kamani Rs. 37.73 cr to Rs. 45.60 cr Ashok Leyland Rs. 34.87 cr to 95.40 cr.

According to another written answer the percentage increase in the assets of the 45 industrial houses during the period is as follow: Tatas 43.3 Birla 50.1 Mafatlal 32.9 Singhanias 72.5 Thapar 45.3, Scindia 69.9, ICI 31.9 Shri Ram 37.6 ACC 19,1 Bangur 33.4, Kirloskar 51.8.

Larsen and Toubro 74 2, Walchand 27 4. India Tabocca 56.2, Khatau (Bombay) 16.6 McNeill and Magor 7.7 Mahindra and Mahindra 95, Sarabhai 30.2, Kasturbhai Lalbhai 37.6 T.V.S. Iyengar 102.8.

Hindustan Lever 26.6Bajaj 65.9 Modi 66.7 Parry 35.4, Dunlop 113.7 Bhiwandiwala 92.1, Caltex 170 8. Jemes Finlay 5.1 GKW 46 Union Carbide 45.1, Bird Heilgers 40.2, Killick 45.4 G. V. Naidu 36.4.

Brooke Bond 35.2, Godrej 61.2; Chowgule 5.4, Rallis 86.8, V.S. Dempo 184.1.

Phillips 6.7, Simpson 35.3; Madura Coats 63.2, Escorts 35.8, United Breweries 45.6, Kamani 18.4, and Ashok Layland 72.9.

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UN EXTRAVAGANCE

Secretary General is Father X-mas !

"A UN job is the nearest thing to Heaven this side of Paradise ! Not only are UN salaries higher than those for comparable jobs anywhere else in the world, but those blessed enough to hold UN jobs do not have to worry about irksome things like Income-Tax.

An Under Secretary-General picks up an annual salary of $ 99,350 while an Assistant Secretary-General takes home as much as $ 86,000.

In comparison, American Cabinet Ministers receive only a measly $ 60,000. West Germany is the country where Ministers have the highest salaries in the world, but they get only $ 78,000. And, of course, everybody is subject to Income tax, except the UN brass who are liable to pay only an "internal staff assessment."

And as if to further improve the quality of life in this best of all possible worlds, six new posts of Under Secretary-General were recently created, and six Assistant Secretaries-General were promoted to the same ! Not surprisingly, this has roused the wrath of the Americans and the Russians.

Third World countries too would like the UN to cut down extravagance. Not only are the UN staff grossly overpaid, but the world organisation is also overstaffed with several persons around to do what one could comfortably accomplish in most other organisations ! It constitutes an impressive monument to the validity of Parkinson's law !"

When will sanity dawn ?

Ed.

The Problem of Wealth

(Continued)

If there are two families in a locality, and one of them earns a thousand rupees a month and the other five rupees, then the average of each would be 502½ rupees. A nice calculation indeed! Poor consolation this to the latter to have three figures against his name in the official books, while his family is hungering! Further, if division into grades is necessary in assemblages and durbars, there is no reason why the grouping should be made promiscuous in striking averages.

ONCE UNIVERSITY DEGREES were supposed to bring money, but now they don't, though they may sometimes bring power; and a boorish hotel-keeper from the moffusil can make as much mony in a day as a graduate can in a month. All money, nautch girls', students', shopkeepers', clerks', and rich heirs', goes to him You see the wife at home reducing her food to the minimum, and thinking that the husband is hard-worked in office, and comes home straight at six or eight o'clock, but you will find that the sorry knave has been three times to the coffee-room during the time, spending several annas each time, and perhaps entertaining one or two fellow clerks, and spent also a few hours over cards and betting in a friend's house, and then, goes home, jaded with OFFICE WORK, and beats his wife!

Once AGRICULTURE was supposed to bring wealth to the producer. But now, such is the economic arrangement that some of the capitalistic middle-men of the leading export marts are said to be making heaps on what the producer has grown, and wild war is waged between the two.

If you go to Tiptur and Davangere and other parts in this very State, you will find the ryot in debt fully up to the hilt, and the capitalist, who 25 years ago, or even 5 years ago, was nothig, now counting his income at 60, 100, or 150 rupees a day. If you try to intercede, and fix a just share of profit for the capitalist and a proper share for the producer, you will be creating bad blood in an already bloody world.

Once upon a time MERIT was supposed to bring money. But now-a-days, unless, like an an accidental gleam of sunshine, circumstances open the way, the highest intellect, the greatest powers in the fields of leterature and art, are indiscriminately shoved aside into obscurity and starvation, and a suicidal grave. A woman may be young, handsome and virtuous, and yet you will see her on a morning near the tankbund with just half her sari on, the other half tied to a tree to dry, while another person washes her superfluous and extravagantly prised sari down below; or while an idle high-paid man rolls by in his car puffing at her his smoke, or fuming with the spirits drunk in his big club the previous evening. It is not in Legislative Councils, and Century Clubs, and D'Angelis Hotels, and First Class compartments, and Mercantile Bourses, that you see the wildness of the distribution of wealth, but in humble homes and city slums, and the homes of handicraftsmen—where, man, wife, and children labour for a mere pittance, while you see the managers of mining companies fat and puffing like their own bullion,—and in tank bunds and temples and fairs. There you will find pickled—as you will see pickled carcases in a museum—all the unfortunate wretches who came into the world and are straining their muscles to make way in it, and to whom Fortune is making the world too hot.

It is not the glory of poverty that you find all over there, but its untold, unutterable misery. Still too-too many of us spend our lives in enjoyment!

This writing is not meant to prove the scientific truth that money does not, like water, find its own level. True, it does not. The most gifted of men, or the most beautiful of girls, are not always born in rich families. The cleverest, or the most hard working, or the poorest boy does not always get the freeship or scholarship in schools. Graduates of equal merits are not equally paid in Governments. One M A. is paid 500 at the very beginning; and another M.A., from a perhaps better University, is paid only 75. It is not always the fairest woman, or the most dutiful wife, who has the benefit of enjoying a wealthy husband. Men of equal official experience are treated most unequally. One man is pushed up, and another is pushed down. The head of one department gets 650. while the head of another doesn't care to serve for less than 2,500 or 3,000 One Dewan is paid 5,000 and kept for 18 years, while another is paid 4,000 and kept only for four, while another still is paid but 5,000 And in Commerce, one man is a leading millionaire here if he owns a few lakhs, elsewhere if he owns a score or two of lakhs; and in England or America, only if he owns a few hundred crores. So it seems that it is not on a man's need, or his greed, or his cherised wish, or his particular deservings, or his physical or intellectual beauty, that his worldly possessions depend, but on some extraneous and accidental circumstances, and on the unwholesome thing called environment.

Without troubling to plead for those cases in which there is inequality of course, but not starvation on the one side and surfeition on the other, we might very justly remark that something ought to be done for those who are in the clutches of poverty. Sometimes it happens that the official class and the moneyed class are inclined to hit hard on the poor ones of society. When Governments think of retrenchment, it is the peons and a few clerks who are dismissed, while the number of budding or budded officers is increased in pairs, or scores, or dozens. In this country, long centuries of inanity and subjection have taken away all the fire of oppressed manhood, and men do not seek relief in such measures as the revolutionaries of the 18th century France did. So, it behoves the Government of Mysore and the rest of the Governments of this Empire, to regularise the distribution of wealth on a scale fixed by their wise men. Social workers, be they social reformers or developers, can only do the thing on a beggarly scale. So the Governments alone should face the problem and introduce the measures for remedy. This would be no new departure from the time-honoured practice. Governments have enforced elementary education, and protected the various reforms in marriage. So this would evoke no public criticism or social obloquy.

Then the first measure that may be introduced is a regulation to the effect that no clerk in the Government should be paid less than 25, and no officer more than 3,000. This would certainly not deteriorate the official stamina, and it is wrong in officers to think that their dignity increases with the increase of their pay. Smallness of pay going along with greatness of work is never humiliating. The people of the Fergusson College and the Servants of India, Karve and Gokhale, Malaveeya and Gandhi, have rather gained than lost by their simplicity and self-sacrifice. And three thousand rupees goes a great way indeed in providing a man's and his relatives' comforts. So these upper and

lower limits of official remuneration should be fixed by statute by Government. Then it must bring about a strict regulation of prices, regulate also the weights and measures, and ordain that no individual should be worth more than 10 lakhs rupees. And then the Government ought to pass a Poor Law imposing a tax of 10 per cent on all who earn more than 1,000 Rs. a year, and 15 per cent on all who earn more than 5,000, and extract 20 per cent from all earning more than 30,000 Rs. a year. A glance at the Death Rates of England and similar duties elsewhere on the Continent shows that it would be by no means unwarranted. So a big Fund may be created by the consolidation of the tax thus raised, and a Council of Elders and the most intelligent Young Men of the State may by appointed to render help out of this Fund in all possible methods, to the poor. starving, clotheless, homeless aud maimed families and beings of the State. If this were not done, and Government hesitate to do it, Governments will go on existing no doubt, and Government officers go on blooming and fattening, and yet poverty and social misery will go on everlastingly, coeval with Time, and endless even at Eternity. That certainly would not be CIVILIZATION !

G. R. J. 1918.

* * *

We have lived to see fabulous changes and find new social diseases resulting from increased opulence. But we are past thinking in terms materialistic.

Editor.

FROM READERS

FROM MADRAS

"It was very kind of you to send me a copy of your paper on the Problem of Wealth. I must first of all say how well you write English. Your style is admirable, sententious, and striking. It invites a willing perusal. This is the first requisite for a popular author"

* * *

FROM BANGALORE

"Your production "The Problem of Wealth" has given me ample material, economic, literary, and stirring not for a "half hour with a young author," but for days together, since the socio-economic dictums dwelt upon by you will hold good for a number of years more till a solution is found out. The poetic garb given by you to this vital economic and sociological problem renders it gaudy enough to the deeply interested readers like my humble self."

FROM MYSORE

"Your essay on the Problem of Wealth is indeed very nice. I like your choice of words, the way in which you express your thoughts, the arrangement you make, the ironical expressions you sometimes use, in short, your work is so very interesting, that I can't exactly express how much I like it."

FROM COCANADA

"I appreciate very much your idea of bringing out the small pamphlet, the Problem of Wealth, and wish it will be read by one and all including the Aristocracy, who, I am sure, cannot co-operate with you."

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SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

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IRON AGE LIFE

No radio, no television, no newspapers. no soap, no cosmetics. No electricity, no running water, no toilets. No cigarettes, no coffee, no tea !

For almost a year now, 10 young men and women have willingly been deprived of all of those common conveniences of modern life and many more. They have lived in a "round house" of thatch, wattle and daub that they built themselves in a remote corner of Wiltshire, southwest of of London. There they have woven cloth for their clothes, raised crops, tended livestock, forged tools, thrown pots, in each case emulating, as nearly as possible, the practices of the Celtic tribesmen who dwelt here in the Iron Age 2,200 years ago !

Their experiment in living in the past was set up by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for a series of 12 documentaries. The BBC selected five couples-plus a sixth with three young children, who went home some weeks ago because one of the children was ill-from a group of more than 1,000 volunteers. The Iron Age community, which is located at the end of a tiny country lane, was carefully screened from the rest of the world. The volunnteers, who were paid £2,000 apiece for their participation, were visited once a week by a camera crew, but apart from that, they were left to rely on resources that existed at the time of Jesus

Great pains were taken to ensure authenticity. Evidence from archaeological excavations was studied, as well as cave paintings and old manuscripts.

John Percival, the producer, who conceived the experiment as a way to dramatise archaeology and perhaps to add a bit to modrern man's understanding of the remote past, had to make a few compromises. Contraceptive pills were supplied to the women, a doctor was sent into the village four times, and the "well" was in fact fed from water mains because the water table in this part of England has fallen to a level that makes well-drilling impractical.

The BBC had intended to open the village to the press last week, to mark the beginning of the television series. But the West of England was buried under a blizzard. Modern life in the area came to a standstill, and the visit was called off, but the Iron Age villagers had no problems whatsoever. They have no roads to keep open, no stores or offices to get to, no electricity to fail. When the reporters finally arrived, they found the village, which is about 13 km. south-east of Shaftesbury, ankle-deep in mud. It was raining. But the villagers seemed more

bothered by the reporters' intrusion than by weather.

Standing barefoot in the chilly mud stretching a deerskin on a primitive frame, 25 year-old Helen Elphick, a nurse before joining the experiment, said she wasn't bothered in the slightest.

John Rockliff, a construction worker, said his time here had made him more self-sufficient. Sharon Preston, a 24 year-old student from Lancashire, said she had learned self-control and tolerance. "You have to learn these things", she added, "when there is no escape from the people you are living with, and you to come back to them very single day.

The village diet consisted of fresh vegetables in summer, dried ones in winer, plus meat from the stock of chickens, goats, cattle and boars. Wheat went into bread and breakfast mush. They kept bees in wicker hives, using honey instead of sugar, and they traded pottery to the film crew for small rations of salt.

All the five couples, three married and two not, agreed that their relationships were less full of stress here than outside.

They didn't miss watches and calendars, because their lives were ordered by the rising and setting of the sun and by the seasons. And few of them were sorry that they had been cut off from the news. As kate Rossetti said. "I didn't really enjoy reading about inflation!"–

Arab Sect and Reincarnation

A Mysterious religious sect is now the focus of interest of Communist and Israeli propagandists in Syria and Lebanon. The Druzes, bound by their exclusive religious mysticism and fanatical tendencies, are likely to be a strong weapon in the hands of any power-aspiring party.

They are known as good fighters and an indepednent people having revolted against diverse rulers—from Egyptian to French throughout their history.

In the late war in Palestine, the Druzes enlisted with the Israeli Army, and now the Communists are trying to win them over with promises of setting up an independent Druze State.

The Druzes are Arabs. They are said to have come from Yemen and derived their name from their first religious leader, Ismail Durzi. Although their religious rites and practices are like those of Muslims, the Druzes call themselves simply 'Muwahidin' (Unitarians), claim affinity with an ancient Chinese empire, and hold beliefs that are strangely similar to that of the Hindus of India !

In Druze religious customs, traces of the ancient calf-worship can still be found, the kind adopted by some Palestinian cults at the time of Moses. Their marriage and social laws are essentially those of Islam They must abstain from smoking and liquors and purchase food with lawful means, but they neither fast nor make the famous pilgrimage to holy Mecca.

One of the pillars of their faith is their belief in reincarnation—the soul passing through successive lives on earth, striving towards perfection, and ultimately absorbed into the divine being. Jesus is accepted as one of these reincarnations.

The Christian gospel, as well as the Pentateugh, Koran and Sufi allegories have contributed towards some item or another in the Druze faith.

Their's is a closed religion, and its philosophy is known only to a few learned leaders called 'akkals,' who are initiated into the faith only after achieving a certain high level of spiritual training.

Religious meetings are held on Thursday evenings in big rooms or in the open air.

The preservation of a pure Druze society is encouraged. That is why Druzes often intermarry within their own families-even brothers and sisters wed each other.

M.B.A.

LONDON, MECCA OF GAMBLERS

The traditional British panache of an 'odd flutter' at the race tracks or in gambling clubs at the roulette or card tables has turned into a major industry. Recently one day in the London Bankruptcy Court the attractive, and once upon a time very, very rich Persian-born Mrs. Millinaire, 39 year old daughter-in-law of Duchess of Bedford, told the court how she lost her fortune worth some Rs. 4.5 crores equivalent As it turned out, she may be the all-time female loser on the London gambling scene She started gambling when she inherited a fortune in her father's will She came to London and toured London's chic gambling area, Mayfair, playing at clubs like Ladbroke's, the Clermont, the Playboy, the Casanova, the Park Lane Casino and the Victoria Sporting club.

She told the London Bankruptcy Court that sometimes she lost as much as Rs. 15 lakhs a night,-and one night she even bropped Rs. 30 lakhs! She flitted from one casino to another trying her luck at Chemin de fer, baccart and blackjack. She played them all badly and lost. Her luck was disastrous, sometimes there were occasional magic moments: "and I only won small amounts like £10,000" she told the Court.

Mrs. Millinaire who is also known as Fatemeh Sadeghazaden from an earlier marriage to a Tehran-based Persian, was said to have debts of more than Rs 75 lakhs!

The sad tales and woes of losers at London's gaming tables and race tracks are endless London is to-day the world's leading gambling capital, and the days of an 'accasional British flutter' are a part of history. It was perhaps true before the war when English culture was uniform, precise and immutable. In London with the cosmopolitanism of Arabs, Americans, Japanese Indians, Pakistan, West Indians, Italians and Turks one wonders what kind of Englishman will emerge out of this fantastic new melange. In parts, London looks like the Hamra Street of Beirut or little Bombay or Ludhiana.

The gambling casinos are full of foreigners and flourishing as never before. Wealthy Arabs are regular visitors staking up to Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs on the turn of a card! Eyebrows would hardly be raised when someone loses £100,000 or more (Rs. 15 to lakh equivalent) in an evening. Not long ago one Arab Sheikh lost nearly Rs. 2 crores, equivalent in two nights! The same man is reputed to have dropped several crores of rupees. The Arab intellectuals are understandably disgusted and the British in their stolid way put up with the Arab eccentricity because of their wealth—perhaps, a nicer way of converting petro-dollars into sterling. Manager of a prominent London gaming house, who has seen the punters win and lose fortunes says that in the long run "the odds will always grind the gambler down." In a year, London's 25 gaming clubs sell over Rs. 600 crores worth of chips to punters! Every evening nearly Rs. 2 crores equivalent change hands at gambling tables in London's Mayfair area alone. A small fraction of this money the gamblers win, the rest goes to the casinos.

The British Government allows various forms of betting and commercial gambling under strict regulatians. According to the Official Handbook the estimated total gambling turnover in Great Britain is about £3,000 millions (or Rs. 4,500 crores). The gambling turnover includes that at casinos, on gaming machines and on licensed bingo which is thought to be played by about 60 lakh people on fairly regular basis. Racing bets are made at race courses and greyhound (dog) tracks or through some 14,000 licensed off-course betting shops in Britain. This certainly is a long way away from an odd flutter the Englishman loves. It is now a national industry which qualifies the British as one of world's most articulate and passionate nation of gamblers!

Batuk Gathani.

EROS AND MARS

Two little worlds which, except for the moon, are our nearest neighbours in space are closer to the earth than they have been for a long time or will be for years to come. These visitors are Eros and Mars.

Eros belongs to a family of tiny worlds known as the asteroids. He is small, but of great importance. The path he follows round the sun is so eccentric that he is sometimes outside the orbit of Mars. At long intervals he makes what astronomers consider a close approach to the earth, coming within 60,000,000 miles.

On these occasions, the distance between ourselves and Eros can be used as footrule to measure the distance between the earth and the sun. The last time that he came to call was thirty years ago. Measurements were then made, and so intricate were the calculations that they took ten years to work out! Now he is closer than he was then, and astronomers hope to settle the question of the sun's distance once and for all. They are not yet satisfied, for the figure of 92,830,000 miles may be about two parts in a thousand out, so that the sun may be about 180,000 miles nearer or farther away.

The other caller is Mars, who is a real world, for his diameter is just about half that of the earth. In many ways Mars is the most interesting of all the Sun's family, for so far as we can see he is the only other planet on which life could exist. The others seem too hot or too cold.

Mars has an atmosphere and there is water on the planet, for through a big telescope the increase and decrease of the snow fields at his poles can be watched as the seasons progress. At one time it was believed that, Mars was covered with a network of canals, and famous astronomers made drawings and maps of them. The camera fails to show any trace of these canals, though, in photographs, certain markings can be seen which change in shape and colour at different times of the year.

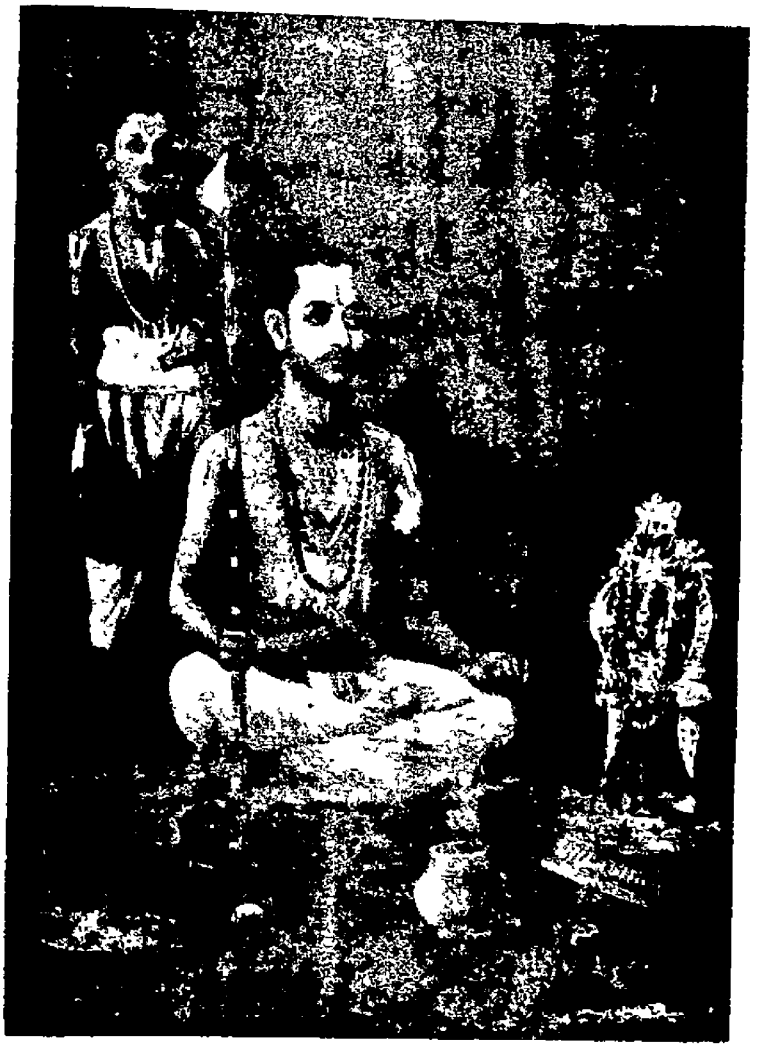
It is almost certain that these are great patches of forests or of some other vegetation. They grow larger and more brightly-coloured as the summer comes on, becoming smaller and less distinct in winter time, and there seems to be no other way of accounting for these changes than to regard them as due to the summer growth and the winter gathering of leaves

Now, if the markings are due to vegetation, then there must also be insects on Mars. The great majority of flowers and trees depend upon insects for their fertilization. Apples and cherries, peas and beans, for example, could not exist without bees. And once we grant that there are insects we must go a step farther.

Unless Nature provided a means of keeping insects in check, plants would rapidly be wiped out, for insects, which feed upon them, increase with enormous rapidity.

Nature's way of preserving the balance is to provide insects with suitable enemies which prevent them from increasing too rapidly. These are birds, lizards, ant-eaters, and other creatures, each of which is a living insect trap.

Whether there is anything like human life on Mars we cannot say, though some day the answer to this question may be found. We can, though, feel fairly certain that plant, insect, and animal life exist upon our neighbour. Z



Sri Ramanuja, 1017–1137, propounder of "Sri Vyshnavism" or devotion to God as Vishnu, Painted by Raja Ravi Varma in 1904 at Mysore, the disciple pictured behind being G. Ramanuja Josyer at the age of 13.

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

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The Chairman and Members of the

Mandayam Srivaishnava Conference Reception Committee

invite

you and your family to participate and involve in

The 9th Mandayam Srivaishnava Conference

on 12th, 13th and 14th May 1978

at

SRI VARADACHAR MEMORIAL HALL.

SHRI M. A. S. RAJAN, I.A.S.

has kindly consented to inaugurate

and

SHRI G. R. JOSYER, M.A. F.R.E.S.

has kindly consented to preside over the conference.

S. S. JAYARAM
Chairman

M. V. PARTHASARATHI
RADHA MURTHY
Secretaries

Presidential Speech at the
9th Mandyam Srivyshnava Conference

On 12—5—1978

by Sri G. R. JOSYER

Illustrious Sri M. A. Srirangarajan, Esteemed Dr. Srisaila Jayaram, and respected Members and Delegates of the Mandayam Srivyshnava Conference, I feel honoured to be amidst you.

Long ago in Treta Yuga, when Emperor Dasaratha, with 3 wives and no children, wanted to perform Putrakameshti Yaga he sent his minister to bring the young sage Rishyashringa. In Dwapara Yuga, when Dharmaraya wanted to perform Rajasooya Yaga, he sent Bhima to bring Purushaamruga. In our Kali Yuga, Dr. Srisaila Jayaram, incarnation of sage Dhanwantari in Malleswaram, wanting to hold the long-over-due 9th Mandayam Srivyshnava Conference, sent the postman to bring this Rip Van Winkle ! So I am facing you.

In 1918-24, when I was in Bangalore, I knew Bangalore society. Now, 60 years later, seeing the elite of the Mandayam Community assembled here, I am flabbergasted. Did I say, " elite of the Mandayam Community ? " I should rather say, the Mandayam Community is the elite of all the enlightened Communities of India !

I see assembled in this august gathering, " Sreemadubhaya-Vedanta Pravartaka, Shaanti-Shama-damaadyananta-kalyana guna-gana paripoorna" venerable elders of the Community, looking as if they were the illustrious saintly Alwars and Acharyas of old, come back to see how Sree-Vyshnavism was faring today. I see talented younger members of the Community looking as though a contingent of Academic Deans and the front rows of prize winning scholars from a Convocation, and other eminent dignitaries in public life, had come en masse to contribute to the success of the Conference. And on the other side, the charming " Better Half of the Community ", elderly ladies of dignified and sedate mien and mellowed wisdom, and bewitching younger ones in all shades of glamorous beauty, no less intelligent than beautiful, and no less beautiful than intelligent, looking as though whole rows of prize-winning Rose blooms in the Lal Bagh Flower Show had come to life and were adorning this gathering. I am dazzled by the picture, but would not wear dark glasses and miss the show !

Sree-Vyshnavism was not the creation of Sri Ramanuja in the 11th Century. The 12 great Alwars, Pohiyar, Poodathar, and Paiyalwar onwards, sowed the seeds of Sreevyshnavism and raised the tree from 5000 B.C., i.e., 70 0 years ago. They were great Sanskrit scholars, and sought to give the cream of Vedic Philosophy in Tamil to the general public,—" Vedam Tamil saida Maaran Satagopan," it is said. Sri Ramanuja, in the 11th Century, by his magnetic brilliance, raised the Tamil Divya-prabandha to Vedic stature, and side by side, expounded in Sanskrit Vedic Philosophy in four invaluable and immortal Sanskrit works, " Sree-Bhashya ", " Vedanta Deepa ", " Vedanta Sara ", and " Vedartha Sangraha ". So we have now the praiseworthy organizations, " Ubhaya Vedanta Sabha ", and its twin " Mandayam Sreevyshnava Sabha " today.

Those Alwars and Sri Andal, of 7000 years ago, are installed in temples and household altars, and their writings acclaimed by the most intellectual and learned men and women of modern times, Vivekananda, Romesh Chandra Dutt, great Annie Besant (whom I knew), Max Muller, and others like the saintly Yogi Parthasarathy Iyengar, Alkondavilli Govindacharya Swamy, M. Rangacharya, M. B. Srinivasiengar, and M. T. Narasimhiengar Swamies.

I think, gracious Ladies and Gentlemen, that I have passed the allotted time, and close with the prayer, " ಸರ್ವದೇಶದಶಾಕಾಲೇಷ್ವವ್ಯಾಹತಪರಾಕ್ರಮಾ । ರಾಮಾನುಜಾರ್ಯ-ದಿವ್ಯಾಜ್ಞಾವರ್ಧತಾಮಭಿವರ್ಧತಾಂ ॥ ಶ್ರೀರಾಮಾನುಜಾರ್ಯ ದಿವ್ಯಾಜ್ಞಾಪ್ರತಿವಾಸರಮುಜ್ವಲಾ । ದಿಗಂತವ್ಯಾಪಿನೀ ಭೂಯಾತ್ಸಾಹಿಲೋಕಹಿತೈಷಿಣೀ " ॥

" सर्वदेशदशाकालेष्वव्याहतपराक्रमा । रामानुजार्य दिव्याज्ञावर्धतामभिवर्धतां ॥
श्रीरामानुजार्य दिव्याज्ञाप्रतिवासरमुज्वला । दिगंतव्यापिनी भूयात्साहिलोकहितैषिणी " ॥

It is now left to the enterprising and brilliant young colts of the Mandayam Community, who have romped to the four corners and five continents of the globe, to spread the teachings of Ramanuja and promote the welfare of the world !

Amen ! **G. R. JOSYER**

P.S. I might mention a curious coincidence which may surprise and amuse you. When the 7th Mandayam Conference was held in Mandya in 1935, with Sri Rao Bahadur M. A. Tirunaranachariar as President, the illustrious Sri M. A. Sreenivasan and I were present. Sri Sreenivasan was requested to propose the President to the Chair, and I to second it. We complied.

Today, 43 years later, respected Sri M. A. Sreenivasan's worthy son, a gem of a son, is inaugurating the 9th Conference, and I am Presiding ! God is a great Master if coincidences !

G. R. JOSYER

AERONAUTICS

Mr. G. R. Josyer, Director,
International Academy of Sanskrit Research
100 feet Road,
Mysore-4, INDIA.

Baker Lake, NWT, North America.
Canada XCO OAO
1978 April 28.

Dear Sir:

The copy of "Vymaanika Shaastra" which I ordered arrived here a few days ago. It was in excellent shape. The cover and end papers are very good. One interesting thing that happened was that, as soon as I took the book out of the plastic bag, the covers started to bend. I have seen this happen before, usually with books from England. The atmosphere here is exceedingly dry, especially in winter (which we are still experiencing here). I have seen the relative humidity as low as 7%.

I am enclosing an excerpt from the book "One Hundred Thousand Years of Man's Unknown History" by Robert Charroux. This passage refers to several ancient writings from India; the references are marked in red. Please advise if these are available in English, either from your Academy or from elsewhere. I realize that the Ramayana and Mahabharata are very long. The portions that I require are the parts that are referred to in the quotation.

Regarding the YOGASUTRA, please advise if it merely lists the topics that are given in M. Charroux's book, or if it has some information concerning how to accomplish these things. Also, how long is the book, and approximately when was it written, (or written down, if it was conveyed orally at first.)

Paperback copies in English would be preferred, due to cost and weight. If necessary I can rebind them (Basic bookbinding is a skill I had to acquire to keep my magazine files in order.) However, bilingual (English and Sanskrit) text of Yogasutra would also be acceptable. Please advise what the cost would be, and, if publication was by someone else, from whom it is to be ordered.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
KENNETH C. MCCULLOCH

(to be continued)

DISSECTING A BRAIN

The brain of Dr. Albert Einstein, the scientific genius who revolutionised twentieth-century thought, is being dissected by teams of American doctors.

These medical men, led by Dr. John Kaufman, of Princeton Hospital, believe that by cutting up this great man's brain they may beable to unravel some of the mystery of the mechanism by whieh the mind of a genius allows him to delve into and grapple with problems that are far beyond the powers of normal brains.

Before dissecting the brain, they will weigh and measure it, although it has definitely been established that there is no relationship between the size of a brain and its capacity for intelligence or genius.

Having a large head, braincase and brain doesn't mean anything. There have been brilliantly clever men with small brains, and extremely dull people with brains larger the normal.

The average weight of the male human brain is about 48 ounces, and that of the female about four ounces less. The brains of various geniuses have also varied in weight.

For example, the poet Byron's brain weighed nearly 80 ounces, and the great Russian novelist Turgenev had a brain weighing 74 ounces; yet, the poet Shelley, and the musician Schumann, had brains that weighed less than the average 48 ounces.

It is also interesting to note that the lightest brain on record was that of a 46-year-old labourer. His brain weighed only 24 ounces, but he was in every way mentally and physically normal.

What the doctors hope to discover by dissecting Einstein's brain are the anatomical differences between the brain of a genius and that of an ordinary mind.

From brain-wave tests made on Einstein when he was alive, medical men suspected that his brain was constructed in an unusual way.

When he concentrated on some abstract problem—like his own theory of relativity he was able to use a large number of separate groups of brain cells at the same time. He was able to focus them on the problem with a facility denied to ordinary people.

And it is the brain cells and their interconnections that determine genius.

The doctors wunt to prove that not only did Einstein have a greater ability to use groups of cells with great concentration, but also that he possessed more than the 10,000 million brain cells that are normally owned by each of us.

A newly-invented television microscope will count the number of Einstein's brain cells.

In addition to this, they also want to establish the fact that Einstein's brain may have special, wide-bore blood vessels that gave his brain cells an extra rich supply of fuel in the form of oxygen.

This question of blood-supply to the cells is a vital one, because there is evidence that this supply determines thinking capacity—the greater the supply, the greater the ability to concentrate and think clearly.

The importance of this blood-supply is easily demonstrated, If the carotid artery in the neck is pressed for even less than a minute, consciousness is lost.

(To be continued)

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(To be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.H.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
DESH RAJ SHARMA

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By G. R. Josyer,

Member, Royal Society of Literature, Gt. Britain.

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"Just as gold is judged by four tests, rubbing, cutting, heating and beating, man is judged by four tests, his manners, qualities, actions and munificence."

"I do not look on any one as my own or anyone as aliens. Therefore I live happily."

The author enumerates all the 64 taditional Indian Arts (Kalas). He concludes with precious sayings on Government and Yoga.

"If the king be an enemy of virtuer, morality and strength, people should desert him as the ruinor of the State."

Dewan Bahadur K. S. RAMASWAMY SASTRY,
in the "Hindu", Madras.

* * *

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VOL XXXVII No. 14] Monday 29-5-1978 [PRICE NP. 0-10

Letter From Canada

(Continued from last issue)

Excerpt from "one Hundred thousand years of man's unknown History"

ATOMIC WARS IN INDIA

The Mahabharata and the Ramayana, two Hindu sacred books, speak of invaders who seem to have come from beyond the earth, since they are called "sons of the moon and the sun."

With astonishing precision, the Hindu books describe an atomic war of the kind we dread today.

These revelations, and those that can be found in other Sanskrit texts (Rama-charitra, Mahavira, Drona Parva, Rasarnava), made little impression on anyone before 1940. But scientists now realize that the atomic war fought in ancient Asia was exactly like the one that threatens our own civilization, so far as we can imagine it.

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The Vedic writings are three thousand years old. Do they represent reports by honest but uninitiated witnesses? It seems more likely that they refer

to an atomic war that took place ten to twenty thousand years earlier, a war between two unequal cultures. The losers used elephants, horses and wooden chariots. The victors–probably extraterrestrials, since they are described as "gods" who came from the sky, used atomic bombs, radiation and flying machines.

In the Ramayana and the Drona Parva we read that the flying machines, called VIMANAS, had a spherical shape. Their motive force was a strong propulsive wind produced by mercury. They enabled the men inside them to cover great distances in a marvelously short time.

The VIMANAS were under the complete control of their pilots. They could move up or down, forward or backward, according to the direction in which their motors were turned.

Here again we have an interesting coincidence. The VIMANAS were propelled by mercury. In 1959, at the international space convention held in Paris, the engineer L. Gerardin advocated the use of mercury on engines for spacecraft.

As for the atomic war, we read that the fire of the weapon used by the hero Rama destroyed whole cities, producing a light brighter than a hundred thousand suns. A high wind then arose, and the fire of the terrible weapon burned elephants, soldiers, chariots and horses. Yet no one saw that fire: it was invisible. It made men's hair fall out, bleached the feathers of birds, colored their feet red and turned them into tortoises. To escape the effects of the invisible fire, the soldiers leapt into rivers to wash themselves and all objects that they would have to touch.

We can allow for a certain amount of imagination, but it is still clear that if a man living three thousand years ago were speaking of events that happened in the remote past–but were undoubtedly reported by written records, since no inconsistencies have been detected in the accounts that have come down to us–these are the terms and images he would use if what he was actually describing was the explosion of atomic bombs that destroyed cities, burned everything and caused mutations and radiation sickness, one of whose symptoms is loss of hair. Is it reasonable to call this a coincidence ?

In the Mahavira, Rama uses weapons very similar to modern secret chemical weapons.

"The Sage gave him weapons of the greatest power and explained all the secrets of their use to him. One of them produced a deep drowsiness, another a deep sleep, and there was a fire weapon capable of reducing the great army of Kumbhakarna to ashes."

Thus the Sanskrit texts tell of a war in which technology as advanced as our own was used.

Another example: an aerial chariot carried several people to the ancient capital of Ayodhya. The sky was strewn with black flying machines that emitted a yellowish glow.

The repeated descriptions of flying machines and atomic weapons cannot leave a twentieth-century reader indifferent. According to their viewpoint, different people will see them as pure fantasy, prefiguration, a clue, or undeniable proof of the existence of an advanced protohistoric civilization.

In the Mahavira, Rama states that the nature of his weapons does not belong to our cycle.

"These weapons that are launched and withdrawn by a magic secret can be wielded only by tradition. Having performed penances for the advancement of the sacred science for more than a thousand years, the ancient sages, Brahma and the others, saw by revelation these weapons and their glory, the fruit of their austerities.

"Krisasva gave secret knowledge of the complete science of the mantras (formulas having a mysterious power, necessary for the use of the divine weapons and the instantaneous suspension of their effects) to Visvamitra, who gave it to me."

And so we are brought back to the conspiracy of Secrecy and a civilization of Superior Ancestors who had all the knowledge contained in our experimental science, and perhaps supranormal powers as well. Rama may be referring to such powers when he speaks of "austerities".

Before the birth of Christ, the YOGASUTRA listed the feats that man was potentially capable of accomplishing:

- Making the body larger or smaller at will.
- Levitation and lightening the body.
- Reaching all things. (For example, touching the moon;)
- Making the will irresistible. (For example, diving into the earth as though it were water.)
- Mastering the production, disappearance and transformation of things.
- Entering into another person's mind or body.
- Invisibility.

This thaumaturgy seems alien to earthly genius. It may belong to the scientific evolution of an extraterrestrial people who came to live among us.

From pp. 119-122 of "One Hundred Thousand Years of Man's Unknown History" by Robert Charroux. (Publ. by Berkley Medallion 1970).

DISSECTING A BRAIN

(Continud from last issue)

This is because the brain cells stop working almost as soon as the blood-supply is cut off. If the brain is deprived af blood for more than three of four minutes, the situation becomes critical, permanent damage occurs and death can be the result.

Even if small reductions are made in the supply of blood reaching the brain, there is an effect on mental activity. It has been proved, for example, that miners working high up in the Andes, in Peru, where the air is rarefied, have less muscular co-ordination and are slighty slower in their movements than their colleagues who work at sea-level.

Mountain climbers have the same experience. On Everest, above 21,000. feet, the oxygen deficiency is so great that climbers find it difficult to concentrate, and their powers of judgment and self-criticism are also affected.

Eric Shipton described the feeling as being something like a sick man climbing in a dream.

This oxygen starvation is also felt by pilots when they pull out of a steep power dive at great speeds. The blood drains from their brains and they experience a blackout.

The brain can also become oxygen-starvad as a result of great physical exertion when the body uses up more oxygen than the lungs can supply.

Roger Bannister, the first athlete to run a mile in less than four minutes, experienced a semi-blackout after completing his historic race.

There seems to be a clear case, therefore that the more oxygen the brain cells can get the greater is the power of concentration and the ability to think.

If the blood vessels in Einstein's brain are found to be larger than normal, his brain must have received a more than usual supply of oxygen, and it seems clear that this is one of the important factors explaining his genius.

But this is only part of the answer, and perhaps not the most important. It is the interconnections between the 10,0 0 million brain cells-the ability to use large numbers of these with ease and facility– that is the basic determining factor of genius and the capacity for great and original thought.

These connections have an electrical basis, but are so fine and intricate that they cannot as yet be mapped.

It is for this reason that most doctors believe that the dissection of Einstein's brain will not reval secrets of his wonderful ability for clear, concentrated and brilliant thinking-the secret of his genius.

Not many men are so brilliant that scientists want to dissect their brains after death. But there are many who think they are bestowing a great favour on posterity by offering their brains for sale to various medical institutes.

Doetors reject all such offers, but there is an amusing story told about the brain of one man which they definitely did want to buy when he was still alive. His name was Pierre Lutec, a Frenchman with a phenomenal memory.

When he was short of money in New York he was visited by the director of that city's anatomical intsitute, who offered to buy his brain for dissection after death. Lutec readily acceded to this request.

Some months later, he was broke in Chicaco, and he sold his brain to the Chicaco Anatomical Institute! But this was only a start. When he eventually died, no fewer than 75 institutes claimed his brain ! R.M.

ALL THAT REMAINS

Hoping to improve business, the owner of a bar in Kiel (West Germany) decided to to play on such a human feeling as compassion. Bearing in mind that people were sensitive about things like taxes & high living costs, he had this sentence printed on its paper napkin, according to the Associated Press: "After paying licensing, spirits, entertainment, value added, income, property, real estate, business capital, business profit, wage, church, dog and capital revenue taxes, and subtracting contributions for social, professional, unemployment, life, fire, theft and third party insurances, as well as gas, water, electricity, heating, rubbish removal, chimney sweeping, telephone, newspaper, magazine, radio, television bills, etc., all that remains for us this month is enough money to pay for this advertisement, and to request you to support our enterprise with frequent visits."

U.S. LAWYERS

In about one out of every six trials, an American lawyer does an "inadequate" job, according to a survey of federal judges, the International Herald Tribune reports. More than 40 per cent of the judges believe that inadequate performances by trial lawyers are a "serious problem." No less worried by this state of affairs is Chief Justice Warren Burger, who affirms that half the U.S. trial lawyers are incompetent!

IN ISRAEL

To believe Zionist propaganda, Israel is wellnigh a realm of democracy and equality. But, says the Los Angeles Times, even an Israeli government commission appointed to investigate reports of scandalous discrimination of women did not risk refuting them. In industry, for instance, they are paid only 40 percent of the amount received by men for the same work. Women are generally debarred from politics, and half of them have not even an elementary education. In Israel, the paper concludes, women are regarded as second-class citizens!

EMIGRANT COSTS

New Delhi, May 22:—Every Indian engineer emigrating abroad means a loss of $32,000 (about Rs. 2,56 lakhs) to the country.

And every immigrant engineer means a gain of $ 297,000 (Rs. 23.76 lakhs) to the US.

The estimates have been made in a study by a UN Conference on Trade and Development (ANCTAD) on "Reverse transfer of technology."

Every emigrating arts, science or commerce graduat. costs India $17,000 (Rs. 1.36 lakhs).

To the developing countries taken as a whole an emigrating doctor or engineer means a loss of $44000 (Rs. 3.52 lakhs). On every emigrating natural or social scientist they lose $33,000 (Rs. 2,64 lakhs).

However, the report estimates the gross median income gained by the US for every immigrant doctor is several times more—$690,000 (Rs. 55.2 lakhs). This is based on the higher economic and income levels there.

The gain in the case of an immigrant engineer is $297,000 (Rs. 23.76 lakhs). a natural scientist, $258,000 (Rs. 20.6) lakhs) and a social scientist, $253,000 (Rs. 20.24 lakhs).

Based on these calculations, the report estimates that contributions made by India to the US economy in 1970 through the supply of skilled manpower was $874.5 million (Rs. 697.6 crores).

The contributions of the developing countries as whole that year was $3,663 million (Rs. 2,929.6 crores). UNI.

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EDITED BY

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FOUNDER DIRECTOR

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SANSKRIT RESEARCH, MYSORE-4.

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"Shringara Prakasha is in essence an encyclopaedia of Indian thought and Indian locution.

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Mr. Josyer has continued and is endeavouring to complete the work done by Yathiraja Swami, and Scholarly India will welcome this great contribution to the appreciation of both literature and the science of erudite and loving criticism." Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer.

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THE RELATIVITY OF SELF AN UNUSUAL CONCEPT

DR. RONALD P. ANJARD, writes from Kokomo, Indiana. U.S.A. :—

Do you know yourself ? Are you the same person you were 7 years ago ? No ! Within this 7 year period, you have completely rebuilt your body. True ! Every cell has been replaced by a new one.

Look at your garden or your house plants. You know your plants are alive. Now look at the wall, a door or even a rock. They appear to be solid. But, they're "alive" because they are in motion too. Everything is composed of atoms, and their components are in constant motion. The air and the gases you don't see also have atoms as you know.

Even our Universe is in motion. In addition to the well-known orbits of planets around our sun, everything in the universe is in motion too. Although our sun appears to be stationary, it is really speeding through space at approximately 12 miles per second, or over 43,000 miles per hour. And, our entire galaxy is in motion. Fantastic, but true. Not only our sun, but the stars, planets and even comets are also hurtling through space. All these bodies are moving through space on a definite path.

Thus, we are trying to simply show you that everything in our entire universe-regardless of size, location or apparent state as we perceive it—is in motion. If we carefully consider these facts, you will also discover that everything, yes, everything—the plants, gas, the rock, the wall, you and me—everything is energy.

Thus everything in our universe is energy in motion. These concepts may be disconcerting to some. But, to others, it shows the wonder and greatness of God !

VEDAS IN U.N.A.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai today drew liberally on scriptures to drive home his point in his address to the UN General Assembly.

He described the goal of the UN in terms of the Vedic benediction: "May all people be happy; may all people be joyous; may all people perceive the good; may no one feel sorrow and misery!"

To translate this ennobling vision into reality, Mr. Desai said, there should be an atmosphere in which, in the words of the Bible, "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more."

A little later in his speech Mr. Desai harked back to the Vedic saying, "The whole world is one family", to stress the need to seek peace.

He said the human mind, which had conceived the engines of destruction, was also capable of compassion and benevolence. He narrated the story of Nachiketa in the Kathopanished: "There is a parable of a boy of tender years who carries on a dialogue with the God of Death who is all God of Justice. The God offers the boy all the riches, all the pleasures, and all the glory there can be, but Nachiketa, the boy, wants to know the nature of life and death and immortality! God parts with the mystery. But like all mysteries, it is no mystery."

Mr. Desai went on to quote the Gita: Victory over death comes from self-control, likening the body to a chariot, the mind to reins, the senses to horses, and the objects of the senses to the roads. Lord Krishna says, "who has no understanding and whose mind is never firmly held, his senses are unmanageable, like vicious horses of a chariot. But, he who has understanding and whose mind is always firmly held, his senses are under control like good horses of a chariot."

Mr. Desai acknowledged his debt to Mahatma Gandhi more than once in his 3,500-word speech.

Paying a tribute to the master, he said Gandhiji's whole life was a testimony to the truth that the only, and indeed the ultimate freedom, is freedom from fear.

"This fact", he said, "has received homage from many, but has all been scoffed at as utopian or unrealistic in the grim world of real politick. I believe that Gandhiji's message of non-violence, and the innovative instrument of satyagraha that he gave us, have great relevance in our present predicament as we grope for a way out of the present impasse."

UNI.

SILVER MADE AND UNMADE EMPIRES

There are occasions when persons have parted with their ten-rupee notes mistaking them for one-rupee notes. Old people with cataracts and even young folk during nights have made such mistakes.

This is because the ten-rupee notes have almost been reduced to the size of one-rupee notes. There was a proposal to stop printing of one-rupee notes, because of paucity of currency printing paper. It appears our economy is dependent on mere paper !

But in days of yore the economy of a country had depended on silver. If an empire could produce a large amount of silver it flourished, and if there was depletion of silver stock and dwindling of its prdduction, it perished !

Historians have discovered that the decline of the Roman empire began in about 200 AD when production in the silver mines began to decline. This was because the workings had become so deep that they flooded, and engineers had no way of pumping the water out. It is not coincidence, say experts, that when the 1000-ton-a-year production began to dwindle, the Roman economy started to crack. The same can be said of many other civilizations also, which ultimately disintegrated.

To some extent this was because a surprising amount of silver in circulation was accidentally lost every year. The loss of silver occurred because coins and jewellery were dropped, lost in the soil or in the ashes of burned houses, palaces and cities, sunk in shipwrecks, buried in graves and hidden in secret hoards. Most of the lost silver was corroded and dispersed back into the earth as silver salts.

Some estimates put the figures of loss of silver at five per cent. This meant that if production stopped the supply could vanish in about a century. Replacement was blocked in a large part by the exhaustion of known silver deposits.

In the case of Rome within 150 years of the exhaustion of Spanish silver mines the empire had been forced first to issue silver-coated coins and then revert to a cumbersome and primitive barter system by the 4th century AD.

Lead was obtained as a byproduct of silver ; about 400 tonnes of lead were produced for each tonne of silver.

Traces of that ancient lead indicate how much of it was produced and, therefore, show how much silver was mined in ancient times. Comparison of these figures with the records of the amount f silver actually on hand indicate the large volume of loss.

Silver was of vital importance in the economy of ancient nations because it was the basis of exchange. Where today we use paper and base metals as well as bank credit, the ancients used silver.

The glory of the Greek civilization also coincided with the discovery of huge silver deposits. And the end of the dark ages came with the gigantic discovery of silver in Central Europe.

Silver was first used in coins in the 7th century BC and became general about 600 B.C. Both Roman and Greek monetary systems were based on silver. The fall of Athens as a powerful city-state had taken place at least partly because the immense silver mines at Laurion in Attica were completely exhausted. Without the mines it was impossible for Athens to keep sufficient quantity of silver in circulation.

According to experts, silver had a half-life of about 35 years. That is, every 35 years half-the existing stock disappeared.

F, instance Alexander the Great had seized an estimated 2200 tonnes of silver bullion during his invasion of Persia. Within 150 years this enormous mass had shrunk to about 90 tonnes wholly to due loss in handing.

Accidental loss of silver had continued into modern times but doesn't upset the economy inasmuch as it's no longer important in exchange. It has been estimated that in US alone about half a billion dollars worth of silver coins have been lost in the past 50 years. An even greater amount has been hidden on purpose in UK, about £ 5 million (Rs. 15 crores) is locked up in gas and electricity meters.

The world is currently using about 350 million ounces of silver annually which is 100 millions more than is being mined. Of this amount about a third is being used by the photo industry.

If this is so why doesn't the price of silver skyrocket? This is because an enormous amount has been stockpiled. It is estimated that at least 1000 million ounces are now in the strongrooms of firms and private investors, plus billions of ounces of silver jewellery owned by ordinary people. These huge hoards known as "the overhang" in trade are helping to keep the prices down.

In the meantime if you have wares, don't hoard them out of sight. Use them. If stowed away and neglected, silver collects sediments from the atmosphere which in time eats into the metal.

It is a pity that a shopkeeper in Melbourne, Austalia, did not know about this. When he died it was discovered that he was in possession of silver coins worth £6000 crammed in tins and boxes in his house. They were so black with damp and corrosion that most of them could no longer be accepted as currency!

T.R.

WEAPONS OF WAR

(Continued)

MANU, VII.	NITIPRAKASIKA VII.
89. Those rulers of the earth, who desirous of defeating each other, exert their utmost strength in battle without ever averting their faces, ascend after death directly to heaven.	44. The same.
90. No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with barbed arrows, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with darts kindled by fire.	45. No one should strike in a combat his enemy with concealed weapons, nor with poisoned arrows, nor with machines kindled by fire (guns), nor also with various stratagems.
91. Nor should he kill a person who is alighted on the ground, nor one who is emasculated, nor one who has joined his hands as a supplicant, nor one who sits with dishevelled hair, nor one who says "I am thine."	46. Nor should he kill a person who has climbed on a tree, nor one who is emasculated, nor one who has joined his hands as a supplicant, nor one who sits with dishevelled hair, nor one who says "I am thine."

The punishment of any one who contravenes these laws was that he should inherit all the sins of him whom he thus kills unlawfully, and his victim would become heir to all the virtues of his murderer. If what is most probable the Sukraniti and Nitiprakasika are of about the same age as our recension of the Manavadharmasastra, the question as to firearms being known at that period can only be answered in the affirmative.

INDIA TAUGHT EUROPE

Artillery was introduced into Europe by the Roma, who were none else than the Jats and Rajputs of India.

This has been revealed in a study by a reputed linguist, Mr. W. R. Rishi, after an extensive tour of Roma camps in Europe.

He explains that the Romas, who are the Gypsies of Europe, also taught the use of artillery to Europeans. These Roma belonged to the Jat and Rajput clans who left India during the invasions by Mahmud Ghaznavi and Mohammad Ghori between the 10th and 12th Centuries Christian era.

He says the use of artillery was known in Asia, notably in India, from time immemorial, while it was introduced to the Europeans much later.

Mr. Rishi reveals that the Roma had helped different countries of Europe in making artillery. "Evidence of this is given as early as 1496 by a mandate of that date granted by Wadislas, King of Hungary, wherein it is said that Thomas Polgar, chief of 25 tents of wandering Gypsies had, with his people made at Funfkirchen musket-balls and other ammunition for Bishop Sigismond.

"In 1546 when the English were holding Boulogne against the French the latter took the help of two experienced Romas of Hungary to make great number of connons of greater calibre than earlier guns. The Hungarian Roma of the 16th century possessed fuller knowledge of fabricating artillery than the races of Western Europe.

There were also records that the Roma were employed as soldiers by some countries of Europe.

Mr. Rishi says that the Romani language was of Indo-Aryan descent and belonged to the Indo-European family of languages. It had assumed something resembling its present form after the break up of the older synthetic system. Mr. Rishi calls Romani a dialect of Punjabi. His multilingual Romani dictionary has already been published.

He says St. Sarah, the patron female saint of the Roma, represents the Christian form of the Indian Goddess Kali or Kalika–they call it the Goddess of Fate and Fortune. The goddess has its face black. Its statue is taken in procession on festival days and later immersed in water in the nearby pond in the same way as is done in India. Naturally, the church did not recognise this female saint. In fact the Roma goddess has nothing to do with Christianity."

Mr. Rishi has found one legend among the Roma of Skopje, Yugoslavia (a colony inhabited by 30,000 Roma), which is an exact translation of a verse from the Rigveda, describing God Indira killing the demon Shushna, Ahi or serpent to bring down rain and heavenly streams for the peoples. Even the names are the same. As in the case of St Sarah they have connected this legend also with St. George without knowing its correct origin.

Mr. Rishi also explained that in the vocabulary of the Romani language, the word "Trusul" (meaning the cross of the Christians), is nothing other than the "Trishule" (or trident of Lord Shiva and Goddess Shaktidevi). The Roma would seem to have transferred the name of this sacred emblem of their God Shiva to the "cross of the Christians," whereas, in fact, the trusul has nothing to do with Christianity.

(to be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS F.R.A.S. M.R.S.A.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

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Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

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POOR BRAHMINS

The per capita income of Brahmins is the lowest with Rs. 537, while Christians top the list with Rs. 1,562 in Karnataka. Finance Minister S. M. Yahya revealed in the State Assembly.

Replying to the general discussion on the budget for 1978-79, he said the per capita income of Hindus was Rs. 933, Muslims Rs. 794, and others Rs. 852.

Among the Hindus, the per capita income of the Scheduled Castes was Rs. 680, and of the Scheduled Tribes Rs. 577. Vokkaligas, one of the dominant castes in the State, had a per capita income of Rs. 914.

Mr Yahya said the figures were arrived at by a survey conducted in the State.

The Minister said no special measures could be taken to improve the condition of the minorities. The community and society as a whole should make efforts in that direction, he said—UNI & PTI.

* * *

There were quite a few "outstanding achievements" registered at the recent Festival of Fantastic Records in the Paris suburb of Evry. One couple, for instance, set a record by kissing nonstop for fourteen hours. But the biggest attraction, according to the magazine Jeune Afrique, was a man who tore a TV set apart with his teeth and then swallowed the pieces. He thus broke the record he himself had set last year, when he chewed up a bicycle. Fears have been voiced that he may try to Eiffel Tower next!

* * *

Protec of Jersey, a British firm, is suggesting a way of combating increasing instances of kindnapping in Western countries. It has devised an anti-kidnap kit which comes built into a black executive suitcase, contains transmitters which transmit sound and light warnings and includes four electronic panic buttons" to summon help. The company has had talks with the British Foreign Office and with the Italian, West German and Israeli governments, and plans to sell 500 kits at 6,000 each.

* * *

American tourists in Western Europe are benefitings by the dollar's decline. Local pickpockets, writes U.S. News and World Report, are avoiding Americans and singling out Japanese for their yen, a currency that has appreciated sharply against the dollar.

"AHARA VIJNANA"

We have received the special issue on pulses of the attractive kannada bi-monthly Magazine issued by the Central Food Technological Institute, Mysore. We have always been looking forward to the arrival of the pretty and fertile Journal which its learned Board of Editors have been graciously sending us since some years.

The Journal has always been good to look at, pleasant to handle, and delightful to peruse, with contents which, to use a colloquial phrase, "would make one's mouth water," like the menu of a five star hotel !

We recall being present at the Inauguration of the Institute in 1947 in the palatial Third Princess' Mansion surrounded by manorial grounds.

The first Indian Governor General, Dr. C. Rajagopalachari adorned the dais, accompanied by Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar. It looked as though the food shortage of the Second Warld War was a bad dream of the past, and the C.F.T.R.I. would prove a Cornucopia of plenty ! So said the Governor General, and the Maharaja said ditto, and in conclusion announced the appointment of Dr. V. Subrahmaniam as the first Director.

Dr. Subrahmaniam wet-nursed the Institute for a long number of years, multiplied its posts and expanded its projects, and left for other nice fields and pastures new.

Today the C.F.T.R.I. is a giant Institute of culinery science, and a store-house of fresh fruits and rare dietary articles, with an academy of scientists to put them to palatable use.

But as to solving the food problem and providing plenty for the "Common Man," the First World War, and the Second World War," both of which we passed through, were like "Rama Rajya" compared with the present attrocious prices, starvation diets, and unavailable articles, and maniacal urge for exporting much needed food stuffs in order to obtain ill-needed foreign exchange, leaving the local inhabitants gaping !

We have scientists who dabble in food, and novices who dabble in state-craft. Four figure pay-scale is no solution. Limitation of population enforced, and deterioration of physic ignored, will only result in a tottering nation. A full-fed nation can be a braggart nation. An illfed nation can only be a begging nation. The British can't come back. The French can't come back. The U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. will be holding our two hands on either side !

To return to "Ahara Vignana," we offer high praise for the care and taste of the Editors in the contents and the get up of the Magazine. We might add, that we appreciate it very much, and have preserved most of the issues that we ever received.

We thank the Editors for their gracious courtesy.

G. R. Josyer
Editor.

INDIA TAUGHT EUROPE
(Continued)

He says according to different sources there were in all, 12 million Roma in the world. Roma are found in many countries of Asia (Iran, the Lebanon, Syria, Turkey), in countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungry, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the U.S.S.R.), in countries of South-West and Nothern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, France Austria, Germany, England and the Scandinavian countries), in East and North Africa, in the Americas (the United States, Canada and Latin Amcrica), and in Ausralia where they went last of all.

Giving a brief history of the mass emigration of the Jats and Rajputs from India and their settling in Europe as the Roma, Mr. Rishi said Prithviraj Chauhan's army after its defeat at the hands of Mahommed Ghori in the 12th Century, split into three groups. One of these groups, whith called themselves the Romane Chave (Sons of Roma), set off across Afghanistan towards Europe.

The first European country they reached was Greece. From Greece, one branch pushed straight up to the Baltic countries, while the rest dispersed acrosa Central Europe and eventually went to Western Europe. Historical records are available regarding their dispersal in Europe after 1417 when they first appeared in Germany.

He says the Roma have preserved Indian phonology with very few changes. The voiced aspirates become voiceless aspirates. For instance Bhra and Bhen of Panjabi became Phral and Phen. Bhumi became Phu in Romani, Dhona became Thov, Ghar became Kher. Interestingly, the Romani language shows some influence of Rajastani also, for example, the masculine adjective in Romani ends in "o" as in Rajasthani Kalo which means "black", the same in both Romani and Rajasthani. UNI.

ANCIENT SHIPPING

It redounds to the credit of our hero, King Bhoja, that he has left to us a treatise on shipbuilding. However concise, this is the only manual known on the subject in the whole of very vast and varied Sanskrit literature. In fact, it forms the concluding part of Bhoja's Yuktikalpataru.

1. YUKTIKALPATARU

More than two scores of works have been ascribed to Bhoja and they cover a wide range of subjects such as literature, poetics, grammar, lexicography, philosophy, religion, medicine, astronomy, architecture and what not. It has been doubted if all these works are really Bhoja' own compositions. With regard to the Yuktikalpataru, however, it has been claimed that it is his own. On the other hand, opinion differs as to its precise nature. It deals with a veriety of topics, not at all connected with one another. On that account it has been described variously by various scholars as a work on Saiva philosophy, on Dharmasastra, on architecture, or merely as an anthology of poetry. Actually, it is all that, and much more. As its name indicates, it is a work of encyclopaedic nature, imparting directions as well as recording definitions and traditions. A broad list of its contents, in the order as they occur in the printed book, may give an idea of the topics dealt with: polity, ethics, town-planning, architecture, astronomy, interior decoration, precious stones, pearls, arms, elephants, bulls, other domestic animals, and lastly, means of transportation.

It is in the context of means of transportation that the subject of shipbuilding has been dwelt upon.

2. SHIPBUILDING

Bhoja displays his poetic bent of mind in classifying the means of transport. He

divides them into three classes: quadruped (chatushpada), biped (dvipada), and footless (nishpada). The first applies to elephants, horses, bulls and other four-footed beasts of burden. The second applies to chariots, carts, wagons and other two-wheeled vehicles. The third applies to water-borne traffic, covering the whole range: floats, rafts, barges, boats, ships, etc. These, of course, are footless, legless or wheelless as the term nishpada signifies.

The concluding four or five sections of of the Yuktikalpataru deal with what is termed nishpaada-yaanoddesa, i.e. instruction on the footless vehicles, covering in all fifty-five stanzas. From the descriptions given it appears that long before Bhoja's time, works on the art and craft of building boats and ships existed, but unfortunately none of those earlier manuals is now available to us.

3. Shipbuilding in Anciant India

Literary evidence has of late been amply corroborated by archaeological finds as to the flourishing maritime activity in India from time immemorial. In fact, it has been asserted that Indians were one of the first, if not the very first, people who started navigation on high seas. India's position on the globe and her extensive sea-coast warrant that. The very term navigation, Skt, navigatih, i.e. 'traffic in boat' points to that sort of adventures on the part of the Aryans. There are specific references in the Vedas to that effect as, for instance, in the episode of Bhujyu, son of Tugra, undertaking a voyage in the Indian ocean. Similarly in the epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, in the classical Sanskrit and Prakrit literature, including Jaina and Buddhist scriptures, one finds numerous references to Indian traders venturing out on high seas, experiencing shipwrecks and what not. It is a fascinating subject for intensive and extensive research for the budding Indian scholars. Fortunately, the spade of the archaeologist has recently laid bare concrete remains in the form of seaports, wharfs, warehouses and even inscriptions, as trustworthy source material for authentic history. The works of the pieneers such as Indian Shipping by Radha Kumud Mukerji, first published as early as 1910, stand in need of thorough revision in the light of fresh discoveries. A Maritime History of India by Commander K. Sridharan of Indian Navy, published as late as 1965, deals more with the late madieval and comparatively recent periods. Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri of Madras and Mr. S. R. Rao of Baroda-this latter intimately associated with the excavations of the maritime Harappan site of Lethal in Gujarat, and some other scholars have contributed learned articles, throwing fresh light on the subjects. The present writer has also had occasion to write a popular paper on Navigation in Ancient India, which originally appeared in the Bhagirath (the Irrigation and Power Monthly issued from New Delhi, vol. VIII, No. 1, July 1961, and subsequently reproduced in the March and elsewhere. There is a need now for writing a comprehensive history of India's maritime activity.

4. Bhoja's Contribution

Of all the literary sources for reconstructing a connected history of India's maritime activity, the chapters in Bhoja's Yuktikalpataru on the subject rank supreme, inasmuch as they specifically treat of building boats and ships of all types in those days. A diligent student may be able to recognise them in the illustrations provided by old wall-paintings and sculptures in India and abroad, notably on the sculptured panels of the gigantic stupa of Barabudur in Central Java.

The late Dr. Radha Kumud Meckerji starts his book on Indian Shipping with a

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Mr. Josyer has continued and is endeavouring to complete the work done by Yathiraja Swami, and Scholarly India will welcome this great contribution to the appreciation of both literature and the science of erudite and loving criticism."

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer.

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IN JAPAN

How do the people of Japan, the World's only victim of atomic bomb, react to nuclear armament? A survey conducted by the Prime Minister's office early as 1959 revealed that only 17% of the population favoured Japan possessing nuclear weapons, while 59% expressed themselves against it. The opposition grew stronger as time passed by, as revealed by a public opinion survey conducted by the Japanese newspaper, "Yomiuri" last April, which showed that 74% of the population were against, and only 10% for nuclear armament of Japan. Japan's nuclear technology has made striking progress and there is speculation in some quarters that Japan may go nuclear. But the fact remains that it has consistently followed the fundamental policy of forsaking nuclear armament. Addressing the 32nd session of the UN General Assembly in September last, then Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Rchiro Hatoyama had pointed out that the country always maintaited its three non-nuclear principles of not possessing, not manufacturing and not permitting entry into Japan of nuclear weapons. Japan is a signatory of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and it firmly believes that its adherence to the treaty will contribute to peace and stability in international relation. At home, it has various constraints preventing it from going nuclear, such as the Constitution, Atomic Energy Basic Law, and the three point non-nuclear principle, besides strong public opinion.

But we hunt with the hound and run with the hare! Ed.

AID FOR MEDITATION

Shimazu Electric Measuring Instrument Company of Japan has marketed a compact feedback apparatus which helps a man meditate by a simple mechanism. The meditation unit comprises a battery-powered controlling unit, a head band in which two salt water soaked soft electrodes are planted, and two ear-phones. The electrodes catch the user's brain waves and transmit them to the controlling unit, which separates the so called alpha waves from them. The alpha waves are fed back through the ear phones to help meditate. Those waves are said to promote a man's meditation.

GLOBAL NEWS

ANCIENT SHIPPING

(Continued)

The original text, however, is not clear in places, and that indicates the need of a more thoroughgoing study thereof. I recapitulate here the contents as they occur in the original. First of all the author points out the auspicious time, astronomically speaking, for starting the work of constructing a boat or the like (nowka-ghatanaadi karma). Then he narrates the four types of wood to be used, quoting the authority of the Vrikshaayurveda: (like in men, according to Dharmasastras), Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra, according to their qualities as lightness and heaviness as well as softness and hardness. Such types of wood as partake of mixed qualities are designated as dvijaati or hybrid, (corresponding to varnasamkara). Incidentally, the author points out that a vessel built of the wood of the Kshatriya class (which is hard and light) is the best, and that one built of mixed types of wood is not good at all.

Continuing, he advises that, in the case of seagoing vessels, iron should not be used because of the possibility of the presence of magnetic rocks under sea attracting the vessels and thereby causing shipwrecks. He specifically advises the use of ropes (gunena bandham) in such cases.

Then he defines and enumerates different types of vessels under two broad divisions, Ordinary (saamaanya) and Special (visesha). The ordinary type includes the following ten, from the smallest to the biggest: Kshudra, Madhyama, Bhima, Chapala, Patala, Abhaava, Dirgha, Patraputa, Garbhara, and Manthara. Their names seem to be self-explanatory, indicating their sizes or qualifications. Proportions of their respective lengths, widths and heights are given, but there is certain ambiguity as to their exact connotation. The Kshudra, for instance is described to be one raja-hasta in length, quarter thereof in width, and as much in height. Now what exactly is the measure raja-hasta is not precisely known. Mookerji has taken it to be 16 cubits. Hasta usually stands for one cubit. Earlier, in connexion with the town-planning (nagara-nirmaana), we have the raja-hasta defined as Rajnah-sva-hastair dasabhi raja-hasta udaahritah, i.e. ten of rajah's own hands make one raja-hasta. Hasta in this context obviously denotes cubit, i.e. the length from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger of a man's hand. Then there is the ambiguity as to the meaning of the word rajah in rajnah sva-hastaih of the original. Does it mean 'king' or 'mason', thinking of the expression raj and mazdoor in Hindustani, meaning 'masons and ordinary labourers'? How Mookerji has taken the length of the Kshudra vessel to be 16 cubits, if according to the definition given by the author one rajah-hasta is equal to 10 cubits, is not known. The author gives, at the same place, others also which are as following:

10 Rajahastas	=	1 Rajadanda
10 Rajadandas	=	1 Rajachchhatra
10 Rajachchhatras	=	1 Rajakaanda
10 Rajakaandas	=	1 Rajapurusha
10 Rajapurushas	=	1 Rajapradhaana
10 Rajapradhaana	=	1 Rajakshetra

Continuing, the author states that those vessels where metals like iron, copper, etc., are used fall under the category of Special vessels, where again, according to size length, width and height, 10 different types are mentioned: Dirghika, Tarani, Lola, Gatvara, Gaamini, Tari, Janghala, Plaavini, Dhaarini and Vegini. Their merits and demerits are recounted, also their being lucky and unlucky to the owners.

Their design and distinctive shapes, their suitability as for pleasure, trade, war, their cabins, holds and even furnishings, using precious metals and jewels, their flags and ensigns, masts, sails, crews and mariners, in short all that pertains to shipping and shipbuilding is narrated in detail. Because of the obscurity of the printed text at many places, the subject requires study. There may be more manuscripts of the Yuktikalpataru hidden in some of the bhandara or manuscript libraries. These may be pressed into service for the presentation of a critical edition, especially of the portion dealing with shipbuilding.

The last four verses give us a glimpse of what the author calls Jaghanya jalayaana, the lowest type of water-transport means, such as hollowed tree-trunks, rafts and floats made of dried pumpkins or gourds, of pots and pitchers, of inflated skins and hides. Crossing streams and rivers by swimming by the strength of bare arms or holding the tails of buffaloes, etc. is not omitted in the description of this nishpaadayaanoddesa.

500% INCREASE

Nearly five times as many British businessmen and public officials are convicted of corruption offence as was the case six years ago, according to Home Office figures. Bribery has assumed such proportion that during a recent trial in Birmingham, reports the London Observer, the judge said it had turned the city into a municipal Gomorrah. "An original way to avoid being accused of corruption has been suggested by a former M.P." If a public official is given a crate of whisky he should either send it back or share it around the whole office and make sure that everyone knows that is what he has done," he is reported to have said.

COUNTING TREES

Experts of the Leningrad Electric Engineering Communications Institute declare that there is no need to go into a forest to count the number of trees there. It is sufficient to feed a colour aerial photograph of the forest into a device they have designed. In a few minutes the device feeds out information on the number of trees of every variety and the area they occupy. (APN).

Georgi khachibabov from Tbilist is one of the oldest drivers in the world. He started out as a drayman, and in 1913 learned how to drive a car. He readily shows off his license of that time to anyone interested.

He has been behind the wheel of such cars as Renault, Ford, AMO, NAMI, M-I, ZIS, jeep, pobeda, Moskvich and Volge, plus trucks and buses of different makes. All told, he's driven over three million kilometres, the equivalent of circling the globe 75 times—and without a single accident. Georgi Khachibabov is 85 years old, and even today young drivers come to him for advice.

SOLAR POWER

Potatoes that weigh four kilograms, sunflower plants with 50 blooms, tomato bushes that yield more than 10 kilograms of fruit—these marvels and many more can be seen at the Pamir Mountains botanical garden in Tajikistan. Solar radiation there is ten times stronger than in the centre of the European part of the Soviet Union and this influences not just the growth of plants but also their genetic apparatus. Scientists consider that the Pamirs represent one of the world centres for the genesis of plants and a rich source of primary material for plant-breeders.

Maharshi Patanjali's Yoga Sutras

1. Atha Yogaanusaasanam.
2. Yogaschitta vritti nirodhaha.
3. Thadaa drashtus svaroopay avasthaanam.
4. Vrutti saaroopyamitaratra.
5. Vruttayah panchatayyah klishtaaklishtah.
6. Pramaana viparyaya vikalpa nidraa smrutayaha.
7. Pratyakshaanumanaagamaah pramaanaani.
8. Viparyayo mithhyaagnaanamatadroopapratishthham
9. Shabda gnaanaanupaathee vastushoonyo vikalpaha.
10. Abhaavapratyayaalambanaavrittir nidraa.
11. Anubhootavishayaasampramoshah smritihi.
12. Abhyaasavyraagyaabhyaam tannirodhaha.
13. Tatra sthhitow yatnobhyaasaha.
14. Satu deerghakaala nyrantarya satkaaraasevito drudhabhoomihi.
15. Drushtaanushravikavishayavitrushnasya vasheekaarasamgnyaa vyraagyam.

Maharshi Patanjali's Yoga Sutras

CHAPTER I—SAMAADHI SECTION.

1. Now we shall expound yoga
2. Yoga is prevention of all the activities of the Mind or Chitta.
3. Then the soul will remain in its vergin state unaffeted by extraneous attractions of the senses.
4. Otherwise it will integrate with the activities that result from external influences.
5. These activities are of five kinds, some painful, some pleasant.
6. They are Reality, Illusion, Hallucination, Sleep, and Remembrance.
7. Pramaanaas of reality are actual sight, inference by valid reasoning, and aagamaas or statements of Vedas.
8. Illusion is caused by imperfect perception and mistaken judgement, like seeing a rope in the dark and thinking it a snake.
9. Vikalpa or hallucination is imagining things by sheer mental aberration.
10. Nidraa or sleep is the state of the senses being at rest and being unconscious of what is happening around one.
11. Not forgetting what one has known or experienced is Smruti or Remembance.
12. Mind is weaned from the five influences by practice and non-attachment towards them.
13. Continued effort is practice.
14. By prolonged, continuous, and determined practice the disciple attains mastery.
15. Aversion towards sensual pleasures, seen or heard, is vyraagya or non-attachment.

16. **Tatparam purushakhyaaterguna vytrushnyam.**

16. **Thereafter the disciple's soul will always remain unaffected by mundane influences.**

17. **Vitarka vichaaraanandaasmitaa roopaa nugamaat sampragnaataha.**

17. **The adept in the sampragnata samadhi state can concentrate on and identify himself with any material object, idea or throught, or feeling.**

18. **Viraamapratyayaabhyaasapoorvaha samskaara sheshonyaha.**

18. **When the mind is aloof from all activities, it is in asampragnataa Samadhi.**

19. **Bhavapratyayo videhaprakrutilayaanaam.**

19. **Some are by birth enabled to pass into state of samadhi easily.**

20. **Shraddhaa veerya smruti samaadhi pragnyaapoorvaka itareshaam.**

20. **Others have to reach that state by devotion, courage, memorising, intelligence, and concentration.**

21. **Theevrasamvegaanaamaasannaha.**

21. **Quick efforts attain speedy results.**

22. **Mrudu madhya adhimaatratwaattatopi visheshaha.**

22. **Easy, moderate practice takes longer.**

23. **Eeswarapranidhaanaadwaa.**

23. **Also meditation on God.**

24. **Kleshakarma vipaakaashayairaparaamrushtaha purushavishesha Eashwaraha.**

24. **God is one unaffected by sorrows and consequences of karma.**

25. **Tatra niratishayam sarvagnabeejam.**

25. **God is possessed of unsurpassed knowledge.**

26. **Sa Esha poorveshaamapiguruhu kaalennavachchedaat.**

26 **Not being qualified by time, God is the guru of even the most ancient seers.**

27. **Tasya vaachakah pranavaha.**

27. **He is designated by the expression "Om".**

28. **Tajjapastadarthabhaavanam.**

28. **Japa or meditative repetition of that combined monosyllable is in effect meditation on God.**

29. **Tataha pratyakchetanaadhigamopyantaraayaabhaavascha.**

29. **Therefrom comes cognition of the overself or Divine knowledge, and the power to overcome all obstacles thereto.**

30. **Vyaadhi styaana samshaya pramaadaalasyaavirati bhraanti darshanaalabdhabhoomikatwaanavasthhitatwaani chittavikshepaa stentaraayaah.**

30. **Sickness, distraction, doubt, accident, laziness, indulgence, delusion, incapacity to attain yogic stages and maintain them, and flippancy of mind are the obstacles to achievement.**

31. **Doohkha dowrmanasyaaugmejayatwa shwaasa prashwaasaavikshepa sahabhuvaha.**

31. **Sorrow, mental derangement, disturbed breathing, are caused by the obstacles.**

32. **Tatpratishedhaartha mekatwaabhyaasah.**

32. **To counteract it, practice concentration on one step at a time.**

(to be continued)

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

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To

The Director
of the International Academy of
Sanskrit Research,
Mysore, India.

Rijksweg 46,
Den Helder,
HOLLAND.
20-7-78

Dear Sir,

My name is Hans Bergman and I'm a student and I'm interested in very old texts and epochs. I know that your organization has translated texts about aeronautics by Maharshi Bharadwaja. I would like to get the full translation. Please send me a letter in which the costs and sending costs are stated. Than I can pay it and send a cheque to your Bank. Please add your Bank. I am very interested in the manuscripts from the pre-historic past by Maharshi Bharadwaja and others. Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours Sincerely
Hans Bergman

LIVING LONGER

Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling calculates that by eating the right kind of foods and by taking extra vitamins we could increase our life expectancy by 20 years. And the sooner you start eating properly, the bigger will be effect on your life span. Pauling is launching a campaign to dispel what he sees are the old and outmoded views of many of the medical and scientific professions.

It's not just a longer life that Pauling promises, it'il be a better one too. He said recently: "Avoid sugar, avoid sweet desserts (except when you are a guest somewhere), avoid buying foods that say 'sugar' as one of the contents, take a fair amount of vitamins, stop smoking cigarettes, and you'll have a longer and happier life,-more vim and vigour and a better time altogether." Pauling is 73 years old, so perhaps he should know what he is talking about. But what about the scientific evidence?

Pauling is very persuasive on this. The thing he's been most concerned about of course is vitamin C. Pauling points to the mounting scientific results which support the idea that vitamin C can ward off colds, provided you take enough of it. For instance, he suggests that normal daily ration of the vitamin should be about two to three grams, but if you feel a cold coming on boost it to six or eight grams. It works. Compare this with the official recommended daily level of 60 milligrams—that is 50 times smaller than the Pauling idea.

Avoiding colds doesn't make you live longer. Pualing doesn't claim that. But the fact that vitamin C can thwart the cold virus indicates that it can help us increase our resistance to infection. And this is quite right. One of the things that vitamin C does for us is help build up the minute structure of our tissues, and it is important in repairing damaged tissues too. One of the consequences of infection is that our tissues do get damaged, and the longer they remain so, the longer will the infection persist. It is therefore very reasonable that anything capable of speeding the renewal of destroyed tissues will bring the infection to an end quicker.

More than this, vitamin C is an essential part of the body's defence system, the immune system. The soldiers of this defence system are minute cells that roam the body on the lookout for invading bacteria and viruses which they destroy as soon as they find them. These aggressive cells are packed full of vitamin C—they just don't work properly without it, and an infection then has a chance to get a hold. It is therefore essential to keep the body topped up with vitamiu C so that the defence system can operate at its best.

Pauling worked out how much vitamin C he thought humans needed by looking back at our primitive ancestors 25 million years ago. These creatures lived in tropical conditions, ate fruit, not meat, and enjoyed the sun. The point is that their diet—of raw fruit and leaves-gave them about 10 grams of vitamin C each day. Then, as man evolved, he changed his habits and became a meat eater. Meanwhile, though, the body's metabolic need for the vitamin didn't alter; so the result is that we are all getting too little of this essential food. Unless we are prepared to spend all day eating raw fruits like our ape cousins, the only way to get enough vitamin C is from bottles.

Vitamin E is another much under-rated substance, according to Pauling. Researchers in Sweden and Canada have now demon-

strated that this vitamin has profound, and unexpected beneficial effects on the flow of blood through the arteries and veins. It is of course, very important to maintain a rapid blood circulation because stagnation can lead to blood clots (thromboses) which can prove fatal in the heart, lungs or brain. But more generally, a vital blood flow ensures that our tissues are healthy by delivering food and oxygen and removing unwanted waste products.

While taking extra vitamins such as C and E, one thing to avoid is sugar. British researcher Professor John Yudkin showed that a high sugar content in the diet almost certainly contributes to heart disease such as coronary thrombosis. And scientists in America have since confirmed this theory. So it might be kinder to your guests if you don't offer them sweet desserts at all. And with the current world shortage of sugar this is perhaps no bad thing.

Smoking is another habit to give up of course. A man aged 50 smoking 20 cigarettes a day doubles his chance of dying from heart disease. And a 20 a day smoker has four times the normal rick. The same kind of increased hazard occurs with other diseases too.

TOKYO: A unique alarm system called "Flame-smoke-gas-heat alarm" has been put on the market by Tokyo-based Majima company. The device houses a set of highly sensitive detectors that are claimed to perceive any trace of flame, smoke and gas or heat. The detector does not react to sunlight or fluorescent light. It can detect the flame from a match struck even 20 feet away, activating the buzzer instantly. It can also detect extremely thin smoke, coal gas, propane and methane gas.

HALOS OR AURA

Prof. Frank G. Baranowski of the Arizona University, US, is an expert in the field of auras.

A specialist in the bio-magnetic field radiation photography technique, he has taken thousands of photographs with the highly sensitive kirilian camera, of the aura of innumerable men and women, and interpreted them.

Addressing a large gathering at the Kalyan Mantap in Brindavan, Whitefield, near Bangalore, Prof. Baranowski said, "The halos or aura around people is of pronounced colours. Energy is white, and when a person is full of love the aura around him is blue, and when the love is pronounced, it is pink. When a person is filled with hate, the blue becomes a brilliant red. These bands can not only be photographed and interpreted accurately but one can also be trained to see them.

Prof. Baranowski said he had examined the aura of several great and holy people in India and elsewhere. He had come to see Sri Satya Sai Baba as a scientist, and found the aura he projected unique with big bands of white, blue and pink, as well as gold and silver. The aura was that of no ordinary man he had seen. The aura he emanated was of strong love, and I could observe the pink going into and enveloping the devotees. The auras prove that so many draw energy from him..."

"As a scientist I feel science is slowly catching up with spirituality. Besides identifying auras, science shows how strange things happen when people get angry. Thus, it has been computed that in one moment of anger, a man loses the energy equivalent of a two-cell flashlight burning for three months," he concluded.

Maharshi Patanjali's Yoga Sutras

(Continued)

33. Mytree karunaa muditopekshaanaam-sukhaduhkha-punyaapunya vishayaa-naam bhaavanaatas-chitta-prasaadanam.

34. Prachchhardana-vidhaaranaabhyaamvaa praanasya.

35. Vishayavateevaa pravruthyutpannaa ma-nasaha-sthitinibandhanee.

36. Vishokaavaa jyotishmatee.

37. Veetaraaga-vishayam vaa chittam.

38. Swapna nidraagyaana-aalambanam vaa.

39. Yathaabhimata dhyaanaadwaa.

40. Paramaanu paramamahat-tatwaantosya vasheekaaraha.

41. Ksheena-vrutte-rabhijaatasyeva-maner-gruhcetur-grahana-graahyesu tatstha tadanjanathaa samaapattihi.

42. Tatra shabdaartha gnaanavikalpyhi san-keernaa savitarkaa samaapattihi.

43. Smruti parishuddhow swaroopa shoonye-vaarthamaatra-nirbhaasaa nirvitarkaa.

Maharshi Patanjali's Yoga Sutras

33. The mind should be brought into the proper mood by being made to experience the feelings of friendship, pity, joy, indifference, happiness, misery, virtue, vice.

34. Or by practicing inhalation and exhalation of breath.

35. Or by some sensitive occupation which curbs the state of the mind.

36. Or by lustrous feeling of happiness.

37. Or by unaffectedness by sensual pleasures.

38. Or by knowledge through dreams or sleep.

39. Or by meditation agreeable to one's mind.

40. Then the mind's grasp will range from the infinitesinal particle or atom to the great principle controlling the whole Universe.

41. When bereft of external activities, the mind becomes crystal clear capable of becoming identified with the objects on which it concentrates, in the state of samaapatthi.

42. Samaapatthi is the capacity to discern the salient truth behind conflicting appearances.

43. Nirvitarka is perceiving the crux of a thing with a pure mind.

(to be continued)

NEW YORK'S PLIGHT

New Yorkers were recently very much surprised to see the flag at City Hall flying upside down. The mistake was soon put right, but some newspapers considered it symbolic ! For a flag flown upside down is the international distress signal, and the city's position is distressful : acute cash shortage has brought it to the brink of catastrophe. The appeals to the government for longterm financial aid have so far been unsuccessful. It the Federal authorities do not alter their stand, Mayor Edward Koch has reportedly said, the city will be compelled to sell the Statue of Liberty !

WHO IS THIEF ?

Demochrtstian Luigi Gui and Social Democrat Mario Tanassi, the two former Italian Defence Ministers on trial in Rome with a group of generals and businessmen on charges of taking bribes from Lockheed, have not lost hope of going scot-free despite the incontrovertible evidence cited in court. For they are being defended by the best lawyers in Italy who are working real wonders to win their acquittal. Here is one of their arguments : Gui and Tanassi are not guilty, because they took the money for their parties and not to enrich themselves. This gem of pettifoggery prompted one reporter to write the following aphorism which well expresses the essence of bourgeois political philosophy : if you steal only for yourself, you are a thief ; if you steal a little for yourself and a little for your party, you are a normal human being, and if you steal for the party, you are a hero !

FILMS

The new cinema season in Italy will open in the autumn. In the meantime critics are summing up the results and assessing the films which were released this year. Many of the so-called hits, they write, were downright pot-boilers : the stories were boring, the acting could not be worse, and the names of the films were one sillier than the other. The Milan newspaper Il Giorno has decided to collect the craziest names of films to be shown this and next year. Among the first in the list is the film "Io tigro, tu tigri, egli tigra", which translates as "I tiger, you tiger, she tigress !" * * *

Moscow's Polytechnical Museum houses a unique clock in its automation section. It was made in 1904 in Russia by F. Karas, a farmer and self-taught mechanic, and Yu. Mankus, his apprentice. The clock, which, according to its own inscription, " is rather a thing of mechanics than a thing of beauty" shows hours, minutes, seconds, the day of the week, date, the week's number in the year, the month, duration of night and day, time of sunrise and sun :t, ordinary and leap years, the sun's position in the four corners of the world and the moon phases. The workings include eight spring drives operating a single drive axle.

* * *

TOKYO : Smoking is injurious to the smoker as well as the smoker of " second-hand smoke ", if it can be called so. Therefore, it is non-smokers who are now moving in Japan. This minority has kept silent for too long. But reports that tobacco smoking can be as dangerous to the nonsmoker as to the smoker have aroused them. Medical evidence indicates that cigarettes bring lung cancer, respiratory and heart diseases. According to the Physical Hygiene Laboratory of the Japanese Institute of Public Health, secondary smoke exhaled by the smoker contain more tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide than the primary smoke he breathes into his lungs. People who would go on smoking with full knowledge of what it may do to them have themselves to blame. But, for them to bring greater harm upon others is impermissible. Nonsmokers in several cities in Japan organised anti-smoking demostration early last month.

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THE GARBAGE THEORY

Janata leader Piloo Mody wonders if he is safe in his bedroom.

"you never know when you will be photographed and in what pose," he said while talking to newsmen.

Mr. Mody said that at one stage there was a talk that the "Trimurti" should quit. "When Mr. Charan Singh resigned, I said "one down, two to go." Last week after watching the Rajya Sabha proceedings, I said ; "two down, one to go."

After reading newspaper reports today, I get a feeling that now it is three down with dirty dozen to go,–may be Ali Baba and all the 40 thieves!"

Newspapers had become unreadable with the type of "below-the-belt politics" going on, he added.

Mr. Mody spoke of his "garbage theory of Indian politics."

He said for 30 long years it was a huge heap of garbage piled under the Congress umbrella with small heaps (Opposition parties) scattered around. The small heaps had been dumped together now in the ruling Janata Party. A sensible scavenger would first shift noncombustible elements and then decide what to do with the rest.

Putting himself in the position of a "good scavenger," he said he would allow it to ferment and use it as fertiliser. But a "bad scavenger" would burn it and pollute the environment, he added.

He likened the present goings-on to the process of sifting the garbage and its utilisation.

He felt that most of the problems the party faced were due to the "Congress Culture" which continued to be there in spite of the change from the Janata.

"The Janata does not know how to defend, and the Congress does not know the art of opposing" he said.

The Janata Party would have to develop its own culture, Mr. Mody said. It would have to develop certain standards of public behaviour in which there was no difference in words and deeds.

All India Mandayam Sreevyshnava Conferenceces.

I 1915. Bangalore :-

मंडयं श्रीवैष्णव महासभायाः—
प्रथमंराजधर्मविशारदः ।
आसूरि पार्थसारथिर्नाम महान् अध्यक्षतामगात् ॥

ಮಂಡಯಂ ಶ್ರೀವೈಷ್ಣವ ಮಹಾಸಭಾಯಾಃ ಪ್ರಥಮಂರಾಜ
ಧರ್ಮವಿಶಾರದಃ ।
ಆಸೂರಿ ಪಾರ್ಥಸಾರಥಿರ್ನಾಮ ಮಹಾ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತಾಮಗಾತ್॥

II 1916. Madras :-

द्वितीयस्यास्सभायास्तु—
राव्बहदूरितिविख्यातः प्राक्तनेषुविचक्षणः ।
आर् नृसिंहार्यवर्यस्तु नायकत्वेप्रतिष्ठितः ॥

ದ್ವಿತೀಯಸ್ಯಾಸ್ಸಭಾಯಾಸ್ತು—
ರಾವ್‌ಬಹದೂರಿತಿ ವಿಖ್ಯಾತಃ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ತನೇಷು ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣಃ ।
ಆರ್ ನೃಸಿಂಹಾರ್ಯ ವರ್ಯಸ್ತು ನಾಯಕತ್ವೆಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತಃ ॥

III 1918. Mysore :-

तृतीयस्यांमहद्गोष्ठ्यां—
दिवान्बहदूरिति विख्यातः धनाध्यक्षेति विश्रुतः ।
एम् ए पार्थसारथिनामाभूत् अध्यक्षस्सर्वसम्मतः ॥

ತೃತೀಯಸ್ಯಾಂಮಹದ್ಗೋಷ್ಠ್ಯಾಂ—
ದಿವಾನ್‌ಬಹದೂರಿತಿ ವಿಖ್ಯಾತಃ ಧನಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತಿ ವಿಶ್ರುತಃ ।
ಎಂ ಎ ಪಾರ್ಥಸಾರಥಿನಾಮಾಭೂತ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷಸ್ಸರ್ವಸಮ್ಮತಃ॥

IV 1925. Bangalore :-

सम्मेळने चतुर्थेतु राजशिल्पविशारदः ।
राय् साहेब् श्रीनिवासार्यो मान्योध्यक्षोऽभवत्सुधीः॥

ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನೆ ಚತುರ್ಥೆತು ರಾಜಶಿಲ್ಪ ವಿಶಾರದಃ ।
ರಾಯ್ ಸಾಹೇಬ್ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಾರ್ಯೊ ಮಾನ್ಯೋಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೋ೬
ಭವತ್ಸುಧೀಃ ॥

V 1928. Mysore :—

पंचमे विप्रसंदोहे संख्याशास्त्र विशारदः ।
एम् टि नारायणार्योभूत् माननीयस्सभापतिः ॥

ಪಂಚಮೆ ವಿಪ್ರಸಂದೋಹೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಶಾರದಃ ।
ಎಂ ಟಿ ನಾರಾಯಣಾರ್ಯೊಭೂತ್ ಮಾನನೀಯಸ್ಸಭಾಪತಿಃ॥

VI 1930. Madras :—

षष्ठेमहामेळनेतु आयव्ययसुबुद्धिमान् ।
टिप्पणी शिंगलाचार्यः अध्यक्षत्वमलंकरोत् ॥

ಷಷ್ಠೆಮಹಾಮೇಳನೇತು ಆಯವ್ಯಯಸುಬುದ್ಧಿವಾ ।
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣೀ ಶಿಂಗಲಾಚಾರ್ಯಃ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತ್ವಮಲಂಕರೋತ್ ॥

VII 1935. Mandya :—

सप्तमे मेळनेत्वासीत् राव्बहदूर् विरुदांकितः ।
एम् ए तिरुनारणाचार्यः अध्यक्षश्शास्त्रकोविदः ॥

ಸಪ್ತಮೆ ಮೇಳನೆತ್ವಾಸೀತ್ ರಾವ್‌ಬಹದೂರ್ ಬಿರುದಾಂಕಿತಃ।
ಎಂ ಎ ತಿರುನಾರಣಾಚಾರ್ಯಃ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷಶ್ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಕೋವಿದಃ ॥

VIII 1935. Mandya ;—

अष्टमे मेळनेस्त्रीणां विदुषी रंगनायकी ।
साध्वी सुशीला सुमती सभायानायकीप्यभूत् ।

ಅಷ್ಟಮೇ ಮೇಳನೆಸ್ತ್ರೀಣಾಂ ವಿದುಷೀರಂಗ ನಾಯಂಕೀ ।
ಸಾಧ್ವೀ ಸುಶೀಲಾ ಸುಮತೀ ಸಭಾಯಾನಾಯಕೀಪ್ಯಭೂತ್ ॥

IX 1978. Bangalore :—

चिरात्समाहूतेतुनवमेमहासम्मेळने सुधीः ।
जि आर् ज्योजयरितिख्यातः गोमठं रामानुजाभिधः ।
महाशीतिवयोवृद्धः अध्यक्षत्वे नियोजितः ॥

ಚಿರಾತ್ಸಮಾಹೂತೇತುನವಮೆ- ಮಹಾಸಮ್ಮೇಳನೆ ಸುಧೀಃ ।
ಜಿ ಆರ್ ಜೋಸ್ಯರಿತಿಖ್ಯಾತಃ ಗೋಮಠಂ ರಾಮಾನುಜಾ
ಭಿಧಃ ॥ ಅಷ್ಟಾಶೀತಿವಯೋವೃದ್ಧಃ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತ್ವೆನಿಯೋಜಿತಃ॥

ಓಂ ತತ್ಸತ್.

ओं तत्सत्.

I 1915. Bangalore :-

மன்டயம் ஸ்ரீவைச்ணவ மஹாசபாயாः—
ப்ரதமம்ராஜதர்மவிசாரதः।
ஆசூரி பார்த்தசாரதிர்ணாம மஹான் அத்யக்ஷ
தாமகாத் ॥

II 1916. Madras :-

த்விதியாயாச்சபாயாச்சத்து—
ராவ்பஹதூரிதி விக்யாதः ப்ராக்தனேச விசக்ஷ
ணः। ஆர். நருசிம்ஹார்யவர்யசத்து நாய
கத்வெ பதிச்டிதः ॥

III 1918. Mysore :-

த்ரதியச்சயாம்மஹத்க்கோசட்யாம்—
திவான்பஹத்தூரிதி விக்யாதः கனாத்யக்
ஷேதி விச்சுருதः। எம். ஏ. பார்த்தசாரதிநாமா
பூத் அத்தியக்ஷசர்வசம்மதः ॥

IV 1925. Bangalore :

சம்மேழனெ சதுர்த்தெது ராஜசில்ப விசாரதः।
ராய் சாஹேப் ஸ்ரீநிவாசார்யொ மான்யோத்
தக்கச்சோS பவச்த்துதீः ॥

V 1928. Mysore :-

பன்சமே விப்பாசனதோஹே சங்க்யாசாசத்ர
விசாரதः। எம். டி. நாராயணர்யோபூத் மாநநீ
யச்சபாபதிः ॥

VI 1930. Madras :-

ஸச்டெமஹாமேழநேது ஆயவ்யயசுத்திமான்।
டிப்பணீ சிங்கலாசார்யः அத்யக்ஷத்வமலம்
கரோத் ॥

VII 1935. Mandya :-

சப்தமே மேழனெதவாசிக் ராவ்ப்ஹதூர் பிரு
தாங்கிதः। எ எ திருநாராயணசாயः அத்யக்ஷ்
ஸாச்தசகோவிதः ॥

VIII 1935. Mandya :-

அஸ்டமே மேழநெசகிர்நாம் விதுஷிரங்க
நாயகி। சாத்வி சுலிலா சுமதி சபாயாணுயகிப்ய
பூத் ॥

IX 1978. Bangalore :-

ரொத்சமாரூதேதுநவமெ-மஹாசம்மேழநே
சுதीः। ஜி. ஆர். ஜோஸ்யரிதிக்கயாதः கோமடம்
ராமா ஜுஜாபிதः ॥ அஸ்ட்டாஸீதிவயோவருத்தः
அத்யக்ஷத்வேகியோஜீதः ॥

॥ ஓம் தத்சத் ॥

"THE WEAKER SEX"

Imagine a slim, pretty young woman so strong that she could stand supporting an anvil bearing two men while they broke up a six-hundredweight stone !

The same girl, who appeared at Leipzig's New Year's Fair more than 200 years ago, could twist large iron nails into screws, raise enormous loads with her teeth (including a table with a child on it), and lift a pony into the air with the aid of her amazingly strong hair !

In our own time, Jose Terena has torn scores of 'phone books in two. She can bend a solid iron bar on her slim neck. Yet she is only 5 ft. 7 in. tall, and so correctly proportioned that she won figure contests a few years ago !

Mrs. Mars. Bennett, an American woman can lie on her back supporting a table containing 160 pounds of man, and 200 pounds of dead weight pressing down on her shapely legs and feet !

In olden times strong girls were among the greatest attractions at New Year, Easter and Michaelmas fairs in Britain.

There was one called Amelia who could break iron chains like glass, and lie prone on the ground under an enormous tub loaded with lead. Another had her tongue stamped with hot wax and a seal like an ordinary letter. When she wasn't doing this she would walk barefoot over a sheet of red-hot iron !

She remained a spinster all her life. Why? Because she maintained that "all men are weaklings"!

YOUR BEST AGE

Whether you will compose an immortal sonnet or invent the gadget of the ages has nothing to do with your age. You might do either at 19 or 90. Science has at last debunked the myth that the race is always to the young and fleet.

In fact, a series of recent tests revealed that new gifts of the mind often flower at 60 years of age and even later. The painter, Titian died at 99, not of "old age" but of the plague. Many of his best works were created after he reached 80.

The composer Verdi produced his Te Deum at 85. America's Benjamin Franklin became Ambassador to France at 77, And doughty Commodore Vanderbilt piled up a fortune of $ 100,000 000 between the ages of 70 and 83. Those were the busiest years of Vanderbilt's life, he increased his rail-road holdings from 120 to 10,000 miles in that span of years.

With today's increased life expectancy of 64 years, men and women are speedily realising that age is a purely arithmetical concept. It has little real bearing upon a person's capabilities, excluding physical prowess.

This increase of man's life-span because of medical advances and greater sanitation means that henceforth an individual's "prime" may be from 60 to 70, instead of the commonly accepted 35 to 40 age period which we consider our best today.

Man, say the experts, really has five ages: chronological age, physical age, mental age, emotional age and ethical-social age. You can be at various steps of all these ages, and still have your best years ahead of you!

True, some folks are more resistant to physical aging than are others. Yet psychologists aver that some fast-living youngsters in their twenties have a greater mental and spiritual senescence than oldsters in their seventies. If you still aspire to do something important in life, your arch-enemies are worry and gloom, not the marching years.

Recently, dentists experimented with two groups of children in an effort to learn the effect of worry on teeth. One group came from happy and normal homes. The other consisted of children who invariably were nagged and browbeaten by their parents at meal time.

The dentists found that the children who were nagged had more cavities than the other group. Their discovery ties in with the findings of physicians that worry will age an individual faster than any degree of hard work.

The lives of great composers, especially their most fruitful years, always have evoked the interest of musicians and scientists alike. Harvey C. Lehman, Professor of Psychology at Ohio University, studied the problem of a composer's best years and came up with some amazing data.

Light operas and musical comedies, he learned, are produced at a higher age level than are the more imposing grand operas. The age period from 40 to 44 was the span of peak production for fifty-four composers of 121 picces in the light music field.

Professor Lehman also studied the lives of 131 contemporary American musicians who had produced a total of 1,286 major works. Surprisingly, he learned that their rate of productivity reached its zenith after the age of 50. Further, the creative output of these composers was as great at 65 and 70 as it was at 30 and 35.

Another authority on aging, Dr. Martin Gumpert, declares that our purely physical capacities reach their climax around the age of 20, long before mental maturity is achieved.

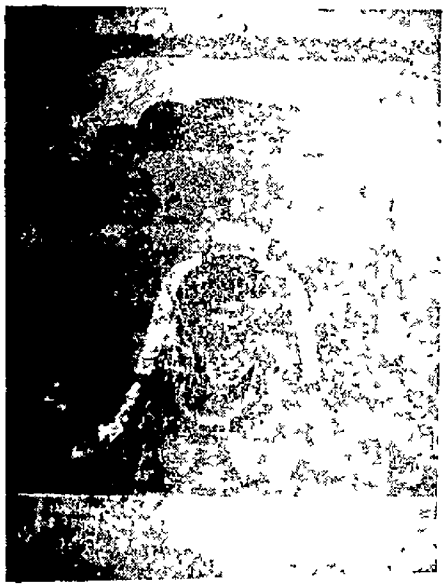
SRI KRISHNA JAYANTI

Observed by Hindu Devotees on 25/26-8-1978

कृष्णाय वादवेन्द्राय ज्ञानमुद्राय योगिने ।
नाथाय रुक्मिणीशाय नमोवेदान्तवेदिने ॥

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಯ ಯಾದವೇಂದ್ರಾಯ ಜ್ಞಾನಮುದ್ರಾಯ ಯೋಗಿನೆ ।
ನಾಥಾಯ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣೀಶಾಯ ನಮೋವೇದಾನ್ತವೇದಿನೆ ॥

कृष्णं कमलपत्राक्षं पुण [illegible] नम्
वासुदेवं जगद्योनिं नौमिनारायणं हरिं ॥



ಕೃಷ್ಣಂ ಕಮಲ ಪತ್ರಾಕ್ಷಂ ಪುಣ್ಯತ್ರಪ [illegible] ।
ವಾಸುದೇವಂ ಜಗದ್ಯೋನಿಂ ನೌಮಿನಾರಾಯಣಂ ಹರಿಂ॥

तपश्चरौ भक्तवरौ कुबेर पुत्रौतु युग्मार्जुनवृक्षरूपौ।
व्रजन्तमुद्धर्तुमुलूखलेन प्रसन्नकृष्णं मनसास्मरामि ॥

ತಪಶ್ಚರೌ ಭಕ್ತವರೌಕುಬೇರ ಪುತ್ರೌತುಯುಗ್ಮಾರ್ಜುನವೃಕ್ಷರೂಪೌ ।
ವ್ರಜನ್ತಮುದ್ಧರ್ತುಮುಲೂಖಲೇನ ಪ್ರಸನ್ನಕೃಷ್ಣಂ ಮನಸಾಸ್ಮರಾಮಿ ॥

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.H.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
DESH RAJ SHARMA

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Dewan Bahadur K. S. RAMASWAMY SASTRY,
in the "Hindu", Madras.

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KOHINOOR

£ 2,00,0000, diamond

What has happened to the Koh-i-Nur, the famous and fascinating diamond that has glittered for so long as one of the shining highlights of the British Crown Jewels ? The startling answer is that nobody knows !

It plays no part in the Coronation ceremonies. It has not been built, as so many people expected, into the Queen's newly reconstructed Imperial Crown of State. Apart from the Queen herself, and three close confidential advisers, no one knows the identity of the stone's prcsent owner.

Was it mentioned in Queen Mary's will ? The great diamond was set into Queen Mary's personal crown over sixty years ago and was long regarded, like the crown, as her late Majesty's personal property. The contents of royal wills however, are never disclosed, and the value of the gem is not considered to have been included in Queen Mary's reputed £3,000,000 fortune.

With watchful regard for the legend of a curse that ordains it unlucky to men, Queen Victoria is known to have willed the Koh-i-Nur to Queen Alexandra. From her it passed to Queen Mary, who merely loaned it for the Queen cosort's crown at George VI's coronation in 1937.

But Queen Victoria also made a provision that the diamond should always be worn by the queen consort of England, and never by the kings. To-day, of course, there is no queen consort. Our young queen is sovereign in her own right; the Queen Mother is in reality, a dowager queen; the Duke of Edinburgh, although a consort, is not in line as a man, and thus an interesting legal situation has arisen.

Yet this is by no means the only strange twist in the koh-i-Nur's recent story. During

the war it was kept in an old hat-box in the vaults of Windsor Castle. At one time when German invasion seemed imminent, it was placed in an airtight preserving jar and buried in a potato field ! And to heighten the controversy, it is being urged that Koh-i-Nur belongs to the government of India and should be returned !

But perhaps you, yourself have a fragment of the Koh-i-Nur and are giving it house room unaware of the curse ? After the East India Company presented it to Queen Victoria, the 186-carat stone was cut down to 106 carats. The smaller part was again split, and many of the smaller chippings found their way into private jewellery.

In size, the Koh-i-Nur—Mountain of Light—cannot compare with the modern 3,025-carat Cullinan in the State Crown, or the 770 carat stone found in a Sierra Leone river-bed 27 years ago, which has now passed to a private buyer. Yet it is one of the world's oldest known diamonds, Legend traces its back 2,000 years—when it was allegedly found in the Golconda mines in India—and it has a documented history from the year 1304.

It formed part of the loot of Malwa, seized from the old Pathan empire. It passed into the fabulous treasury of Delhi and was found there when great Tamerlane's grandson conquered Hindustan and founded the famed Mogul empire.

Wars have been fought around the Koh-i-Nur. In trying to find it, men have fallen down stairways and broken their necks. A harem slave once hid it away and appeased her conquerors by revealing it hidden in the emperor's turban !

But how to get it ? The conqueror suggested exchanging turbans as a gesture of friendship, and the unfortunate emperor, Mohammed Shah, had no choice but to comply !

Half a century later, another emperor in the same plight tried to deceive a conqueror by foisting him off with a perfect replica. In return his capital was ransacked and his palace razed to the ground until the diamond was at last found in a heap of ashes !

Following the overthrow of the Sikh empire, it was handed over to John Lawrence, the British Resident. Absent-mindedly he put it into a cotton coat pocket, forgot about it, and then learned the coat had gone to the cleaners !

Panic-stricken, he turned the laundry upside down. "If you are looking for that piece of glass," said a servant, "I have put it in a drawer."

And when Queen Victoria was at last presented with the Koh-iNur, it must be recorded that she did not think much of it. The gem did not seem to shine with sufficient brightness, hence the old queen ordered it to be recut. But the harsh truth is that diamonds as old as the Koh-i-Nur gradually lose their power and brilliance.

This "gem of gems" is no exception. Some years ago it was valued at £140,000, but is was priced at £2000,000 when shown at the Great Exhibition in 1851.

So who now owns the Koh-i-Nur ? it is nearly two years since it was last seen twinkling in Queen Mary's crown at the Tower of London. Since then the crown itself has been dismantled, and the Queen was seen to be wearing gems from it when she last rode to the State Opening of Parliament. If the Koh-i-Nur has to await the next queen consort, its icy fires may lie in cold storage for sixty years or more.

FOUND: THE MOTHERLAND—MU :

Dr. Ronald P. Anjard, the esteemed and prolific writer from Indiana, U.S.A., sends as the following as of interest to Indian readers :

"There has been much speculation through the years about sunken continents. Most of the discussion focuses on Atlantis. Others stair-step back to a once developed civilization on a huge continent in what is now the Pacific Ocean. Islands such as Hawai, Easter and Fiji in the west. This continent is called Pan, Lemuria and Mu. There are some who have indicated that there was even an earlier continent in the area of what is now the Indian Ocean and they have termed it Mu. For the ancient writings have called Mu the Matherland, the source of all mankind.

Recent sharings from experts in India have clearly shown that there were lands sinking into the Indian Ocean as recent as 3000 BC. In various articles I have shared these diagrams and another dating back to 8000 BC. The oldest shows land extending northeast from Madagascar and south of India. It also shows an extension of land extending southeast of Viet Nam toward Australia !

This was substantiated in diagrams received from "Awareness Techniques" showing early land masses on our planet eighteen million years ago. It shows the lost continent of Atlantis, and the Pacific continent of Pan. Another continent, termed Maskara, comprises the area of Africa, India, Mongolia, Central Russia, part of China, the Indian Ocean and the other sections of land mentioned earlier—provided by my Indian associate and expert, G. S. Sampath Iyengar.

In a diagram of civilizations of our planet also provided by "Awareness Techniques", the oldest continent listed is Maskara, W. Swygard shows civilization established between 18 milion and 14 million years ago. Civilization then "moved on", Pan—to Atlantis—to the caveman and finally to the civilizations of the world as we know them. This is in general basic agreement with some of the findings as presented in Richard E. Leakey's important book, Origins. He dates the oldest man at 13.5 million years, and identifies him—as "Ramapithecus". Evidence shows that Ramapithecus has been found only in the areas which Swygard has identified as Maskara.

These data further indicate that the original Motherland of Mu (or Maskara) existed about 15 million years ago in the region of India, Africa, the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Ronald P. Anjard
906 Bellevue Place
Kokomo, Indiana 46901

L. I. C.

in High Courts

Sri M. N. Srinivasan, Advocate and well known author of "Hindu Law in Bharat", and "Law of Life Insurance", writes :

Broadly speaking, a study of the cases will show that the Life Insurance Corporation which is the principal offender or defender in the majority of cases, has had to face severe adverse judicial criticism in regard to the manner in which insurance claims are repudiated and defended before the Courts. A decade earlier the Madras High Court had administered this wholesome advice to the L.I.C; "Whenever claims are repudiated and disputes come to Courts of Law, the L.I.C. should not put up fight on the pattern of ordinary litigants. But it must be on a higher plane, so as to inspire confidence in the public, that claims are not resisted on frivolous pleas and reckless allegations....." (L.I.C. Vs Parvatavardhini 1965 Madras 357). But we find this repeated by the same High Court in Srinivasa Pillai Vs L.I.C. 1977 Madras 381. 386. LIC is a reputed Government undertaking specially constituted to enter into contracts, not of the ordinary type. At all stages including the final stage of payment of the sum assured, it has a duty to act with utmost good faith towards the insured, the other party to the contract.

In another case the Andhra High Court remarked that the L.I.C. wants to profit by some immaterial inaccuracies in the insured's personal statement and seeks to deprive the insured's dependents of the amount of insurance, and characterised its attitude "highly improper and grotesquely unfair" (L.I.C. Vs Shakuntala Bai 1975 A. P. 68). In yet another case, two learned judges of the Delhi High Court remarked with all judicial restraint, "it seems a pity that this claim has been resisted in this manner by the insurer. While it is the duty of the insurer to expose the falsity in statements made by the insured, care has yet to be taken to refrain from contesting a claim on untenable ground." (Daulat Ram Vs. Bharat insurance Co. 1973 Delhi 180). A private business concern can never hope to withstand such criticism and raise its head any more without completely reforming itself The insuring public expect nothing less than that from the L.I.C. at whose mercy they are thrown by the nationalisation of insurance business. As observed in the Delhi case, "it is needless to point out that the public interest which is served by inducing more and more persons to come forward to insure their lives, should not be defeated by the feeling that is likely to be generated by this kind of a defence that claims based on insurance policies will be sought to be defeated by procuring even unreliable testimony" (1973 Delhi 180, at 186). The Central Government and Parliament which created the L.I.C. should take due note of such repeated Court finding before the confidence of the policy holders is further eroded.

Though the L.I.C. is 'owned by the central Government' (Vellukurnel Vs Reserve Bank of India 1962 S.C. 1371), S 6 (3) of the L.I.C. Act requires the Corporation to act so far as may be 'on business principles, and not as a government department. But in L. I. C. Vs Omprakash Agarwala 1977 Gauhati II the unfortunate heir of the deceased insured was driven by the L.I.C. to carry on the unequal fight in 4 Courts one above the other, just because the unpaid interest on a premium paid late was Rs. 5-09 (the insured had already paid over Rs. 2,000 towards premium in 8 years according to the L.I.C.) and so the policy was treated as paid-up, whereas if it was only Rs. 5 the L.I.C. would have treated the policy as in

force and admitted the claim on the policy in full. The Court held that the unpaid interest actually amounted to 4-66 and so the policy was in full force and the insured's heirs thereby benefitted by an additional sum of Rs. 3000 nearly. Does any 'business principle' demand that a mere 9 paise should cause such preventable hardship to any customer ?

Another disquieting feature that has been repeatedly noted by the Courts is the disregard of fair methods adopted by the agents of the Corporation during year ends to boost their earnings and indirectly help the Corporation to show higher record of new business figures year after year. The latest judicially noticed instance is L.I.C. Vs Shakuntala Bai 1975 A.P. 68 in which the proposal became a policy within 4 days, where the learned judge feelingly observes; "And I think Court may well take judicial notice of the fact that insurance agents often run ofter prospective customers to persuade them to take out policies of insurauce and tell them 'you just sign on the dotted line, Sir, I will take care of the rest.' This is an everyday experience." In the Madras case referred to above also, the Court observed "We have already referred to the normal state of affairs which has been referred to by other High Courts also in their judgments, about the awakening in a zealous agent to bring about a contract of insurance by persuasion and by his ability and that too in record time, without giving full opportunity to the insured to think and give out the particulars' (1977 Madras 381 at 386). The sufferer in the end is the proposer or his heirs who will lose even the premiums paid !

(to be continued)

THE VILE DRUG

For many decades after the discovery by the Europeans of Erythroxylon coca lam—the coca shrub—the coca effect remained an inexplicable, mysterious phenomenon. It was only in the 19th century that the danger of cocainism was revealed by two European explorers and scholars, Poeppig of Germany and Tschudi of Switzerland, who had experimented with coca leaves on themselves.

Taken in the morning, the narcotic causes loss of appetite, tachycardia, that is, abnormally rapid heart action, signs of acute distress followed by stupor. A dose in the evening has a stronger still, causing nervosity, a sense of frustration and bitterness, and chronic insomnia. Increasing doses bring on the first symptoms of a gastric disorder, called "opilaction" in Peru, which is often incurable. The person who contracts this disease can get along without food. The feeling of hunger and thirst diminishes. This impaires the functions of the gall bladder, causes serious digestive disturbances, and leads to hallucinations. As Dr. Ernest Jones, eminent psychiatrist, has put it, one common hallucination is that "worms are eating one's body alive."

In 1949 the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs established that chewing coca taking cocaine can have serious consequences. Insomnia, emaciation and violent headaches are followed by a nervous breakdown. Very often cocaine addicts suffer from persecution mania or dementia. Excessive use of cocaine can kill !

Such conclusions have been confirmed by surveys made by American doctors who are alarmed by the "coke cult", as it is called in the United States. The fad, which started with Hollywood stars and the well-to-do, has spread to the young generation. Cocaine, writes the British Observer Magazine, is often passed around with the canapes and caviar at dinner parties !

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FOUNDER DIRECTOR

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Mr. Josyer has continued and is endeavouring to complete the work done by Yathiraja Swami, and Scholarly India will welcome this great contribution to the appreciation of both literature and the science of erudite and loving criticism." Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer.

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WEEKLY

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Proprietor & Editor G. R. JOSYER, M.A.,F.R.E.S.

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"JUST A MINUTE!"

"I won't be a minute!" you say—but make it snappy. In that brief ticking minute 90 babies will be born, and 76 people will die. In just a minute, the world's smokers use up three tons of tabacco, and over 6000,000 cups of tea or coffee will vanish down a quota of the world's 1,800,000,000 throats!

A foremost statistician has just worked out these grand-scale events of a minute, making up an astonishing time picture of the march of man. Every minute we're using up 2,000 tons of coal, and nearly as many barrels of oil. The world's food consumption meantime is rather more than 100,000 lb. of meat, 50,000 eggs, and a crusty half-million loaves of bread!

May be you don't take salt, but the world pinches 50 tons a second. Sugar sweetens and energizes us at the rate of 20,000 cwt. a minute. A world stockpile of 750,000 pounds of potatoes will vanish in just the same time!

More stratling still, the law is catching 2000 wrongdoers a minute, but nearly 3500 world crimes occur. Every minute brings an attempted or successful murder or suicide, possibly under the emotional pressure of the world's 30 thunderstorms.

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We expressed surprised greeting and, took them upstairs, and asked them to be seated, "When did you come?", we asked—"To Delhi, three days ago, then to Madras, and now to interview you," Mr. Davenport replied.

"What about? I thought you had sucked me dry last time?" we remarked.

"That book has gone to Press, and will come out in Italian in November. A copy will be sent to you. The English edition will come out in March. Now we have come to interview you about Medicine in Vedas, and on the efficacy of Mantras.

We were aghast at their coming thousands of miles to interview us on a subject which we had not claimed to know, and said that we were not all-knowing, but could put him in touch with one who was doing research in those fields.

We also gave him two pamphlets by Swamy Vydyanathendra Bharathy Shankaracharya, which we had published, "Small-pocks and other infectious diseases and their Vedic cure", and "Therapeutic Potentisation of Astra Rasas or Atomic weapons in Atharvaveda".

Signora Davenport, of Italy, seemed to be very much in the know of things, and with soundless speech, which women use to coach husbands when in company, was giving him questionnaire which he conveyed to us in English, on the manufacture of Pushpaka Vimana, on the potency of mantras, on the powers of Yoga etc.

Time passed, and at 12 noon, they left us intending to return next morning.

Next morning they came, armed with a posh tape-recorder and film-camera, and put us through our paces on the topics mentioned, for publication in another book

in Italian and English. It was like making a 20 year old horse perform in a steeple chase! We had to forget our 88 years, and be careful not to make a fiasco for the Italian public, and give whatever information we could, thoughtfully and faithfully, unhampered by the disabilities of advanced age. The tape-recorder was on, and every few minutes, in the course of our talk, we used to hear the clique of Mr. Davenport's high-powered camera!

By noon the ordeal came to an end. We had fixed their engagement with Dr. N. Subrahmanya Sastry, the esteemed Ayurvedic and Vedic researcher in Mysore, for the afternoon. Signor and Signora Davenport gathered up their armoury of tape-recorder and camera. We accompanied them downstairs to the street door. Mr. Davenport made us stand in front of the house facing the street, photographed us, and bade farewell, with the parting shot, "We will come back to see you in November with a television troupe."

We smiled and waved back, and returned to our humble sanctum.

Seeking no fame or honours, and living a hermit's life in our 100 years old modest tenement, in a bye-lane, in an out of the way city, the name had become known over the Five Continents, from Baker-Lake, North West Frontier of Canada to Auckland beyond Australia, from Stockholm and Leningrad to Cumana and Caracas in South America! And to a recluse whose motto was, "Let me unrecognised live, and unremembered die," people were coming from Rome, the hub of ancient European Civilization, as a phenomenon to be lionized over the length and breadth of Italy! For years past we have left it to God to make us do things as He liked, and deal with us as He liked. And if it pleased His Divine grace to bestow on us world-reknown and recognition in distant lands, we could only submit, wondering at His benignity, and speechless with thankfulness. We are but a spec of dust, and He the luminous Controller of the Universe! Amen!

G. R. JOSYER

Dr. Ron Anjard writes from Kokomo,

U.S.A.

Ancient India had progressed in many sciences thousands of years ago. In an article, this author has described expertise in science, medicine, we've analyzed in depth as 10,550 year–old, very accurate. And in a third article, ancient aeronautics was discribed. India and its sciences were in its glory prior to the famous Mahabharata War. Afterwards, the peoples dispersed, science retrenched and the culture greatly declined. The golden days were greatly tarnished. Much of these new insights were provided by recent analyses of ancient documents from such expert sources as the Inrernational Academy of Sanskrit Research. However. few people, including Indians, know the date of this famous war. Estimates as early as 5000 B.C. and as early as 15000 B.C. have been made by a variety of experts – mainly western.

In mid 1977, G. S. Sampath Iyengar presented data on both the Ramayana and Mahabharata Wars at Gokhale Institute, India. Sampath Iyengar is a recognized authority in Indian history and astronomy. He provided this author with his extensive data from his book which was used in the article about the 10,000 year—old Indian calendar.

Condensing much very detailed astronomical analyses the Mahabharata War started on November 22, 3067 B.C. However, actual preparations started one month earlier. The war, which lasted only 15 days, was devastating to India.

There was an earlier war with which few westerners are familiar. Sampath Iyengar has determined that the Ramayana War, based again on astronomical calculations, started in 4401 B.C. and lasted only thirty days. Western historians did not understand the use of family names, nor the total role of Rishis. For example – the Viswamithra who was one of the greatest astronomers about 7000 B.C. is an entirely different person from the Viswamithra in the Ramayanam.

One other important aspect of understanding the dates for the Mahabharata war is that it relates directly to the Bhagavad Gita, the most revered of Indian scriptures. The Gita consists of a diologue between the Lord Krishna and Arjuna. Sri Krishna had been sent to make peace but failed. He was deeply involved in the Mahabharata War. The Lord Krishna was born on July 27th 3112 B.C. according to very precise calculations using Indian astronomy.

This article thus provides very important dates for important periods of the history of India—including its philosophy and religion. Prior to the detailed analysis by my friend, G. S. Sampath Iyengar, there was exetensive variance and confusion. The history of India, its Gita, its sciences and culture. are all important because so much we use today has its roots in India. Westerners have, unfortunately, lost sight of the value of Eastern thought. This new information is intended to aid not only Indians, but all concerned with the history and development of mankind.

RON ANJARD

L. I. C.
in High Courts
(Continued)

At present, the L.I.C. is not just a party to an insurance contract, as it should be, but is also the person who lays down most of the rules relating to the contract, as also the judge who decides almost all the disputes that arise in the working of the contract. This should be changed by enacting a comprehensive code as in the U.S.A. regulating all aspects of the contractual relationship between the insured and the insurer. That would rectify most of the existing deficiencies.

Nomination under S-39 insurance Act—The right to nominate a person to receive the money secured by his policy was given to the policy holder by statute in S. 39 nearly 40 years ago. Even now the nominee's rights is a topic of controversy in Courts because the nominee's positiog is not defined with clarity in the section. More Courts have however taken the view that Sub. S (6) confers on the nominee the right to receive the sum assured and give a valid discharge to the insurer, but that he merely collects it on behalf of the legal heirs of the deceased insured who are the real claimants. This is the view held in 1957 Madras 115, 1961 Kerala 126, 1972 Allahabad 167FB. 1970 Calcutta 513 and now also by the Gujarat High Court in Atmaram V Gunvantiben 1977 Gujarat 134, an unfortunate case in which a young man, Surendra Atmaram Panchal, took a policy on his life on 20-10-70 nominating it in favour of his father. Atmaram, married Gunavantiben after 2 months, had a child by her and died leaving them all and his mother within a year on 20-9-71. The father as nominee claimed the sum assured for himself and hence the suit by the legal heirs in which the Court held that he could collect the amount only on behalf of the legal heirs.

The same view was held in Malli Dei V Kanchan Prava Dei 1973 Orissa 83 and (1977) 2 Kar. L J 219 also.

If the nominee under S-39 is only an agent to collect the sum assured on behalf of the legal heirs of the deceased insured, there is no purpose in enacting the proviso to S 39 (1) enabling a minor to be appointed nominee and another person appointed to receive the money on behalf of the nominee. If the insured should die during the minority of the nominee, except to cause confusion to those who have to interpret the statute. The best thing would be to appoint Banks as nominees instead of appointing any relatives.

M. N. S.

Another Indictment.

A veteran insurer calls upon the Central Government and the Life Insurance Corporation to see that the squandermania of LIC was immediately stopped.

The interests of the policy holders call for an immediate reappraisal on the part of the LIC in wasting policy holders' money on the Corporation's paraphernalia.

In a statement, he said, if 100 persons in the age group of 30 to 35 insured for Rs. 1000 each, the risks involved were in respect of only 20 persons, with the Corporation requiring to spend Rs. 10,000 as cover amount. The other 80 policy holders would get Rs. 14,000 only at the end of 20 years.

However, if the same money was invested in a nationalised bank he would get at least Rs. 24,000.

He said the benefits the heirs of the deceased policy holders got amounted to a mere pittance compared to the unchecked extravagance of the LIC. Of the premium amount collected nearly Rs. 300 crores was spent by the Corporation on its staff and establishment, whereas the benefits that went to the heirs of the deceased policy holders might not exceed Rs. 30 crores per year! The LIC was not serving the best interests of the policy holders for whose benefit the corporation was established, he said.

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
DESH RAJ SHARMA

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By G. R. Josyer,

Member, Royal Society of Literature, Gt. Britain.

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"Just as gold is judged by four tests, rubbing, cutting, heating and beating, man is judged by four tests, his manners, qualities, actions and munificence."

"I do not look on any one as my own or anyone as aliens. Therefore I live happily."

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in the "Hindu", Madras.

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U.S.A.

Ancient India had progressed in many sciences thousands of years ago. In an article, this author has described expertise in science, medicine, we've analyzed in depth as 10,550 year-old, very accurate. And in a third article, ancient aeronautics was discribed India and its sciences were in its glory prior to the famous Mahabharata War. Afterwards, the peoples dispersed, science retrenched and the culture greatly declined. The golden days were greatly tarnished. Much of these new insights were provided by recent analyses of ancient documents from such expert sources as the Inrefnational Academy of Sanskrit Research. However. few people, including Indians, know the date of this famous war. Estimates as early as 5000 B.C. and as early as 15000 B.C. have been made by a variety of experts—mainly western.

In mid 1977, G. S. Sampath Iyengar presented data on both the Ramayana and Mahabharata Wars at Gokhale Institute, India. Sampath Iyengar is a recognized authority in Indian history and astronomy. He provided this author with his extensive data from his book which was used in the article about the 10,000 year—old Indian calendar.

Condensing much very detailed astronomical analyses the Mahabharata War started on November 22, 3067 B.C. However, actual preparations started one month earlier. The war, which lasted only 15 days, was devastating to India.

There was an earlier war with which few westerners are familiar. Sampath Iyengar has determined that the Ramayana War, based again on astronomical calculations, started in 4401 B.C. and lasted only thirty days. Western historians did not understand the use of family names, nor the total role of Rishis. For example - the Viswamithra who was one of the greatest astronomers about 7000 B.C. is an entirely different person from the Viswamithra in the Ramayanam.

One other important aspect of understanding the dates for the Mahabharata war is that it relates directly to the Bhagavad Gita, the most revered of Indian scriptures. The Gita consists of a diologue between the Lord Krishna and Arjuna. Sri Krishna had been sent to make peace but failed. He was deeply involved in the Mahabharata War. The Lord Krishna was born on July 27th 3112 B.C. according to very precise calculations using Indian astronomy.

This article thus provides very important dates for important periods of the history of India—including its philosophy and religion. Prior to the detailed analysis by my friend, G. S. Sampath Iyengar, there was exetensive variance and confusion. The history of India, its Gita, its sciences and culture. are all important because so much we use today has its roots in India. Westerners have, unfortunately, lost sight of the value of Eastern thought. This new information is intended to aid not only Indians, but all concerned with the history and development of mankind.

RON ANJARD

L. I. C.
in High Courts
(Continued)

At present, the L.I.C. is not just a party to an insurance contract, as it should be, but is also the person who lays down most of the rules relating to the contract, as also the judge who decides almost all the disputes that arise in the working of the contract. This should be changed by enacting a comprehensive code as in the U.S.A. regulating all aspects of the contractual relationship between the insured and the insurer. That would rectify most of the existing deficiencies.

Nomination under S-39 insurance Act— The right to nominate a person to receive the money secured by his policy was given to the policy holder by statute in S, 39 nearly 40 years ago. Even now the nominee's rights is a topic of controversy in Courts because the nominee's positiog is not defined with clarity in the section. More Courts have however taken the view that Sub. S (6) confers on the nominee the right to receive the sum assured and give a valid discharge to the insurer, but that he merely collects it on behalf of the legal heirs of the deceased insured who are the real claimants. This is the view held in 1957 Madras 115, 1961 Kerala 126, 1972 Allahabad 167FB. 1970 Calcutta 513 and now also by the Gujarat High Court in Atmaram V Gunvantiben 1977 Gujarat 134, an unfortunate case in which a young man, Surendra Atmaram Panchal, took a policy on his life on 20-10-70 nominating it in favour of his father. Atmaram, married Gunavantiben after 2 months, had a child by her and died leaving them all and his mother within a year on 20-9-71. The father as nominee claimed the sum assured for himself and hence the suit by the legal heirs in which the Court held that he could collect the amount only on behalf of the legal heirs.

The same view was held in Malli Dei V Kanchan Prava Dei 1973 Orissa 83 and (1977) 2 Kar. L J 219 also.

If the nominee under S-39 is only an agent to collect the sum assured on behalf of the legal heirs of the deceased insured, there is no purpose in enacting the proviso to S 39 (1) enabling a minor to be appointed nominee and another person appointed to receive the money on behalf of the nominee. If the insured should die during the minority of the nominee, except to cause confusion to those who have to interpret the statute. The best thing would be to appoint Banks as nominees instead of appointing any relatives.

M. N. S.

Another Indictment.

A veteran insurer calls upon the Central Government and the Life Insurance Corporation to see that the squandermania of LIC was immediately stopped.

The interests of the policy holders call for an immediate reappraisal on the part of the LIC in wasting policy holders' money on the Corporation's paraphernalia.

In a statement, he said, if 100 persons in the age group of 30 to 35 insured for Rs. 1000 each, the risks involved were in respect of only 20 persons, with the Corporation requiring to spend Rs. 10,000 as cover amount. The other 80 policy holders would get Rs. 14,000 only at the end of 20 years.

However, if the same money was invested in a nationalised bank he would get at least Rs. 24,000.

He said the benefits the heirs of the deceased policy holders got amounted to a mere pittance compared to the unchecked extravagance of the LIC. Of the premium amount collected nearly Rs. 300 crores was spent by the Corporation on its staff and establishment, whereas the benefits that went to heirs of the deceased policy holders might not exceed Rs. 30 crores per year! The LIC was not serving the best interests of the policy holders for whose benefit the corporation was established, he said.

SANSKRIT CIVILIZATION

by

G. R. JOSYER. M.A. HONS. F.R.E.S. M.R.S.L.

FOUNDER

International Academy of Sanskrit Research.

Most Respected Shriyut G. R. Josyer, New Delhi
11-7-77

Please accept my respectful pranams and grateful thanks for your kind suppy of two issues of Rationalist which have supplied me with most eagerly sought information in respect of your unique personality, your vast learning and your great contribution to Deva-bhasha learning.

Meanwhile I managed to borrow from a library a copy of "Sanskrit Civilization" which is indeed a jewel of a book. You have done a most valuable service to India by composing in about 250 pages the achievements of our forefathers. This is the most inspiring book I have come across in my life of 80 years, and have formed an opinion that this book should be placed in the hands of all students in schools and Colleges, should be translated in all provincial languages. It should be made an important course of study in all institutions. If elder people study this book as a ritual daily instead of the Bhagavadgita, they will surely derive more benefit for improvement in life.

Yours Sincerely
DESH RAJ SHARMA

SANSKRIT WISDOM

By G. R. Josyer,

Member, Royal Society of Literature, Gt. Britain.

"Sri G. R. Josyer, who is a well-known scholar and writer, has given us this work, a treasury of the great ideas in our Sanskrit literature. The author has given to us a garland of diverse flowers of ethical and spiritual wisdom. But he has not stated where he took each of the flowers. I shall quote a few of them."

"Just as gold is judged by four tests, rubbing, cutting, heating and beating, man is judged by four tests, his manners, qualities, actions and munificence."

"I do not look on any one as my own or anyone as aliens. Therefore I live happily."

The author enumerates all the 64 taditional Indian Arts (Kalas). He concludes with precious sayings on Government and Yoga.

"If the king be an enemy of virtuer, morality and strength, people should desert him as the ruinor of the State."

Dewan Bahadur K. S. RAMASWAMY SASTRY,
in the "Hindu", Madras.

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RATIONALIST

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Vol. XXXVII No 22] Monday 23-10-1978 [Price NP. 0-10

"DIVYASOORI CHARITE"

"ದಿವ್ಯಸೂರಿ ಚರಿತೆ"

by Sri D. Krishna Iyengar, M.A.,

It is always a pleasure to receive a book from Sri D. Krishnayyengar, and by Sri D. Krishnayyangar. An assiduous scholar, and facile writer, he has been enriching Kannada literature by his very thougtful, very learned, very well-got-up, and very readable literary productions for over 40 years. While holding a lucrative but easy-going office in the Registration Department, he engaged his mind and pen by observing and writing thought-provokingly on the lives and problems of rural and agricultural populace under titles "ರೈತನ ಪ್ರಪಂಚ" "ರೈತನ ಏಳಿಗೆ" "ರೈತನ ಬಾಳು" "ರೈತನ ಸಮಾಜ" and others.

As age set in, he has turned his thoghts from the mundane world of the tiller to the spiritual realm of God, and has brought out handsome biographies of Ramanuja and Vedanta Desika,—Ramanuja, who like the 3 lofty peaks of the Himalayas, Kanchin Junga, Dhawalagiri, and Gowri Shankara,—forms with Shankara and Madhwa the

Triumvirate of South Indian Brahmanism—Vedanta Deshika, Venkatesha renowned as "Vedanta Desika"–"Preceptor of Vedanta.". There are preceptors today who offer first class marks to Vidwath candidates on condition that they surrender to them the lace-shawls or Prize amounts presented to them at the convocation. There are also preceptors who make first class candidates fail if they offer no profit ! But Vedanta Desika and the preceptors of his day taught as part of their shat-karma, ಷಟ್ಕರ್ಮ, seeking no return. Vedanta Desika says,

ನಾಸ್ತಿ ಪಿತ್ರ್ಯಾರ್ಜಿತಂಕಿಂಚಿತ್ ನಮಯಾಕಿಂಚಿದಾರ್ಜಿತಂ ।
ಅಸ್ತಿಮೇ ಹಸ್ತಿಶೈಲಾಗ್ರೆ ವಸ್ತು ಪೈತಾಮಹಂಧನಂ ॥

"I have no paternal property. I have earned no property. My paternal property is that God who adorns the peak of Hastigiri or Kanchi". He is revered as "ವಿದ್ಯೋದನ್ವತಿ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ವರ ಕವೌ," "the Ocean of Learning". He was not only an ocean of learning, but a fountain of learning, spouting many-coloured cascades of literary masterpieces !

Sri D. Krishnaiengar has presented Sree-Vyshnavism in several commendable volumes, and has now brought out the "Divya-soori Charite" or the lives of the Dravidian Saints, known as Alwars and worshipped in Sri Vyshnavite temples. They were 13 dedicated souls dating back to 4000 B.C.

Acquiring Vedic learning, they churned that milky ocean and produced cream, in the form of "Divya—Prabandhas" containing 4000 paasharaas or verse units, for the benefit of the Dravidian or Tamil-speaking men and women. They worshipped God as Vishnu, and dedicated their lives to the propagation of His glory. They laid granite foundations for Ramanuja and Vedanta Desika to build the structure of Sri-Vyshnavism with brilliant illumination.

Their lives and the cream of their teachings are set forth in readable Kannada in this book by Sri Krishnayyangar. It is a notable service for which the non-Sanskrit knowing, and non-Tamil knowing Sree-Vyshnavas ought to be grateful to him; and we may conclude with the appraisal that Sri Krishniyangar's distinguished contribution to the realm of Kannada literature is worthy of high praise.

G. R. JOSYER
Editor.

H. H. Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodayar Jayanti Celebration Committee

request your presence on the occasion of
the Celebration of the 184th Jayanthi of

H. H. SRI MUMMADI KRISHNARAJA WODAYAR, G.C.S.I.

on Friday the 27th October 1978, at 5-30 p.m.
in the Hall of the Maharaja's Sanskrit College, Mysore.

under the Chairmanship of
Sri Vidwan P. S. Rajashekharayya, M.A., B.T.,

G. R. JOSYER.
M.A. HONS., F.R.E.S., M.R.S.L.,
Convenor.

ಶ್ರೀಮನ್ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ

ಜಯಂತ್ಯುತ್ಸವ ಸಮಿತಿಯವರು

1978 ನೆ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 27 ನೆ ತಾರೀಖು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5-30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ಮಹಾಪಾಠಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರವರ
ಗಿಲಳ ನೇ ಜಯಂತ್ಯುತ್ಸವಕ್ಕೆ
ತಮ್ಮ ಸುಪಾಗಮನವನ್ನು ಬಯಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಮಹಾಪಾಠಶಾಲಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
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ಅವರು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ತಾವು ದಯಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಭಾಗಿಗಳಾಗಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೋರುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಜಿ. ಆರ್. ಜೋಸ್ಯರ್, ಎಂ.ಎ., ಎಫ್.ಆರ್.ಇ.ಎಸ್.,
ಕನ್ವೀನರ್.

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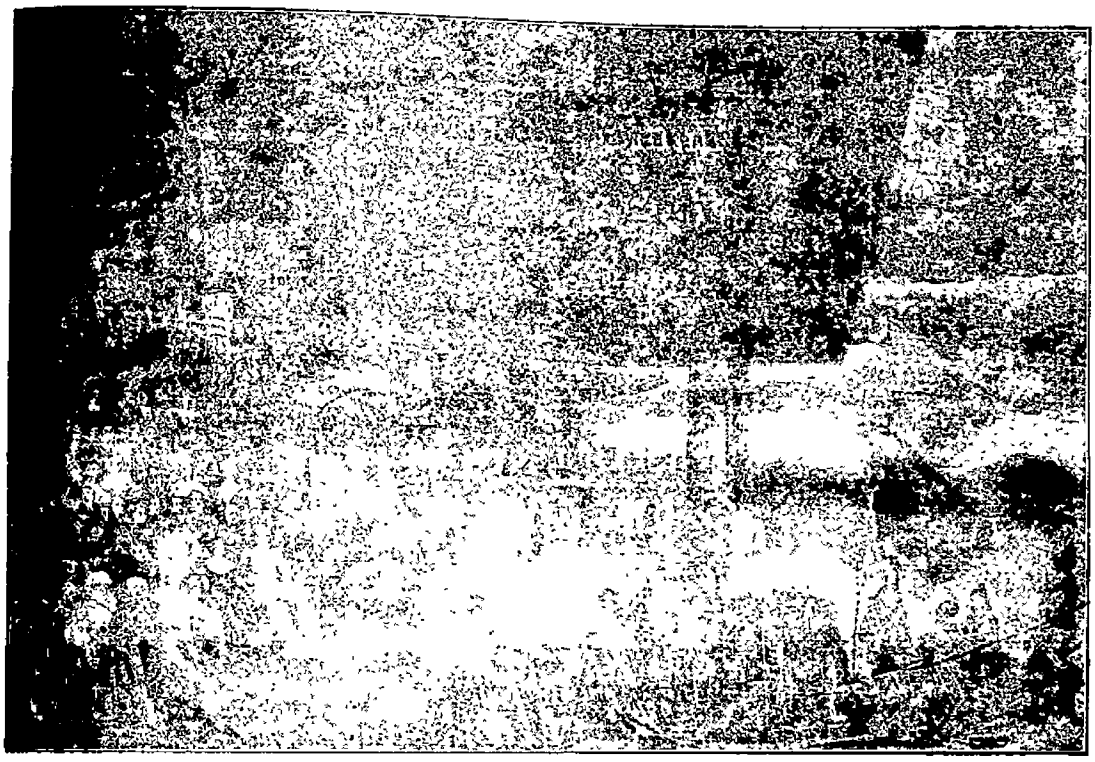

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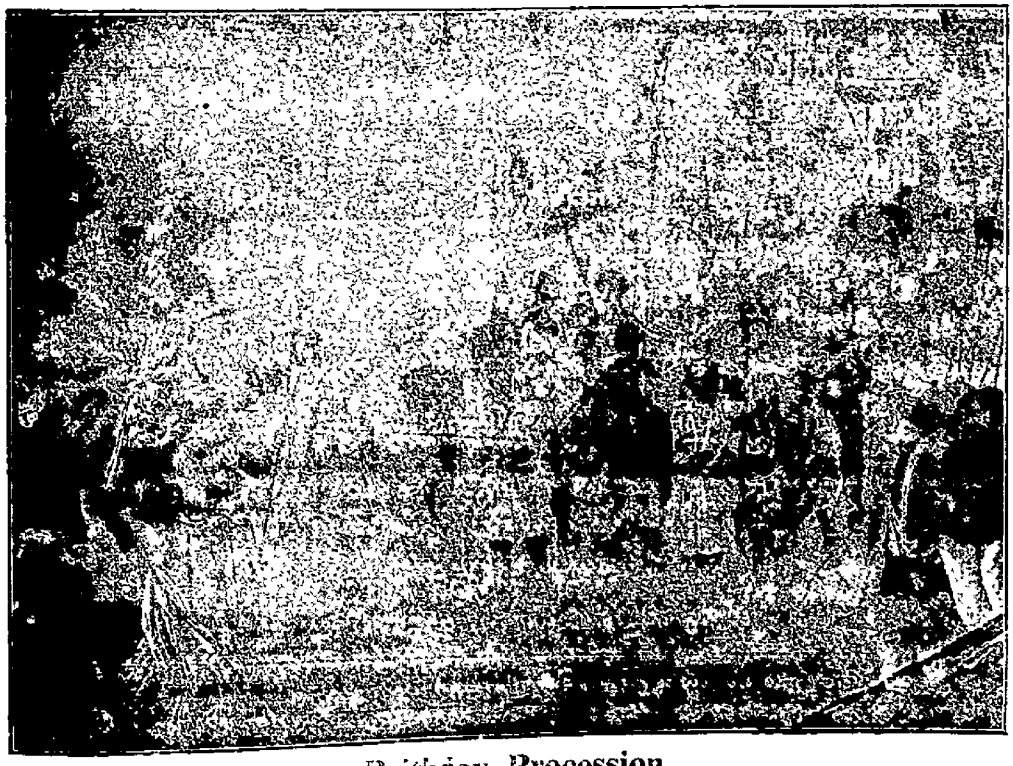

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AIDS TO BEAUTY

Mascow, No. 25 Kalinin Prospekt.— This is the location of a cosmetics clinic which is called the Institute of Beauty.

People with various problems come here. One is bothered by ears that stick out, another by premature wrinkles, a third by obesity. But the clinic's range of services go far beyond such cases, most of which can be helped. People come here who have been disfigured by burns or injuries. Baldness is battled, scars from smallpox are erased, tattooing is removed. The Institute's job is the cosmetic eradication of congenital or acquired defects in appearance.

Through the ages man has been unable to accept inevitable old age and the changes in appearance associated with it. The Institute's cosmeticians help to postpone these changes. The most diverse methods are used: massage, ultrasound, the latest preparations. Special creams and nutritional masks are applied, made accoring to recipes that have been worked out in the Institute. Doctors restore freshness and elasticity to the skin. In cases where the cosmetician is helpless, plastic surgeons remove undesirable wrinkles.

The clinic has albums of photographs. The miracles which take place within its walls daily are imprinted on them. On one photogroph a girl with an extremely long nose is gazing sullenly at you. Next to it is a picture of the same girl after plastic surgery. She is almost unrecognizable; her face is friendly and pleasant, as though the surgeon was able to alter not only the nose, but the character of his patient as well.

For those who wish to lose weight or improve their figure, there is a specially equipped sports gym. Patients are treated

mostly through diet, cosmetics, mechanical therepy and massage. Regular sessions enable some people to lose 10 to 12 kilograms within six months, others to build muscles or to develop an easy, graceful walk. A system of exercises which helps each person to lose unsightly bulges or make the body more proportionate has been evolved by the Institute personnel.

The clinic's principle of work is scientific. Not a single procedure or treatment is prescribed to a patient until he has been examined by a number of physicians. So it is not surprising that 20 fields of medicine are represented here. Along with the basic specialists—cosmetic dermetologists, plastic surgeons and physiotherapists—the staff includes therapeutists, endocrinologists, neuropathologists, oculists, etc. All of them are concerned with cosmetic problems. There are also gerontologists and allergy and genetics experts.

"Cause no harm!" This credo is sacred to the doctors of the Institute of Beauty. Nature has an amazing "sense" of expediency and harmony. In altering a person's appearance, the cosmetician could destroy his individuality and uniqueness. Therefore doctors are particularly cautious when deciding whether plastic surgery is called for.

The Institute also conducts scientific research, develops new preparations, perfects surgical methods. Quite often this work is carried out jointly with the Scientific Research Institute of Cosmetology, also located in Moscow. Science and practice march hand in hand, assisting each other. The Institute on Kalinin Prospekt has its own inventions to its credit, including methods of hair transplanting and plastic surgery on noses.

There is a special children's department for patients between the ages of three and 18. Work with children is an extremely important aspect of the clinic's activities. It is no secret that physical defects among minors, especially adolescents, give rise to inferiority complexes. They can become uncommunicative, easily hurt, unsure of themselves, or, what is even worse, aggressive in relation to others. If a child is not helped in time, these traits may affect the formation of character and personality.

The Moscow Institute of Beauty is a State clinic, but consultation, treatment and surgery here are not free, as they are in ordinary clinics and hospitals. After all, cosmetic treatment is by no means always vitally necesary. Nevertheless, all types of services are cheap. A consultation with a doctor costs 50 kopecks, with a professor-two roubles. Any patient can afford a face-lift. For the sake of comparison, it costs 40 roubles at the Institute, but between 1,000 and 2,000 dollars in the United States!

Many people associate their successes and difficulties, good fortunes and failures, griefs and joys, with their appearance. Many young girls, for example, request, that they be made to resemble this or that film actress. But it is interesting that not one has said she wants to look like Sophia Loren, indisputably a beautiful woman. Why not? Sophia Loren often plays women who have a hard, sometimes tragic life. Whereas young girls, and not only they, want to resemble those who, in their mind, are happy. As for happiness, of course, it goes beyond the framework of cosmetology alone. However in eradicating defects in appearance, the Institute of Beauty restores mental balance and self-confidence in people.

WOMEN'S STATUS

In Rig-vedic times, women were accorded an honoured place in society. There was, according to Miss Shastri, "freedom to both sexes prior to marriage". "Marriage," she continues, "was a union of two persons of full development. No reference to age or its limitations such as are found in later works, can be traced in the Rig-Veda. Neither can it be said that child marriage existed then as a reference to it is to be found only in the Sutra period." Matrimony says the author, was not compulsory for a woman and that there were at least a few cases in which girls remained unmarried in their father's houses to an advanced age.

Woman in the Rig-veda period, was "regarded with due respect in every sphere of life, and she was not subject to any of the merciless laws of an unsympathetic society." "Even when she overstepped moral laws, she was judged with sympathy." Monogamy generally prevailed during the period. references to the existence of illegitimate love and the abandonment of offspring are also to be found in the Rig-Veda.

Miss Shastri has drawn all these conclusions obviously after a study of the translations of the hymns by western scholars. Practically, all the western scholars who translated the Vedic hymns or who made a critical study of them believed that rishis of the Rig-vedic times were primitive poets, who sang their hymns in adoration of the nature powers. They had no idea of the symbolism employed by the rishis and of the sublime spiritual truths they had given expression to. Miss Shastri's observation on the mantras and their seers echo the views of these western scholars.

Miss Shastri next takes us to Atharva Veda which gives a picture of "Aryan life from the cradle to the grave, and thence to the life after death." She points out that the kernel of the ritual of marriage in both the Rig-Veda and the Atharva-Veda is the same. "The system of giving dowry was prevalent; the value of a wife was enhanced by the amount of dowry she brought to her husband." The author says that there are traces of Roman customs in the marriage ceremony described by the Atharva-veda. She does not, however, say which part or parts of the marriage ceremony reflect Roman influence.

After a short study of the Brahmanas, the author goes on to the Upanishadic period. Child marriage, polygamy and intercaste marriage find mention in the Upanishads. "It has to be noted," the author writes, "that marriage, conjugal love, birth of children and their rearing became a part of the religion of man. No part of it was considered a pleasure; every movement had to be accompanied by a verse with the seriousness of performing a sacrifice. Hence woman was viewed not as a thing of pleasure, but as a partner in the religious duties of man." The author illustrates this with a long quotation from the discussion of Gargi and Yajnavalkya.

In the period of the Shrauta and Grihya sutras, the position of women became progressively bad. Women were excluded from performing sacrifice and were prevented from owning property. The author describes how Apasthamba, Aasvalayana and Bodhayana had laid down laws which resulted in women coming to enjoy a status secondary to that of man. The author details at length the ceremonies where women have been made to play an important but yet a complementary role by these Sutrakaras.

—X.

BACK TO BARTER

The inflationary price spiral is causing ordinary barter to flourish in the U.S.A. nowadays. Cabinet-making is traded for French-language lessons, baby-sitting for auto repair! One New York artist used her lithographic prints to pay for a perm, and acquire a new rug and a travel voucher. Among firms specially organized for the purpose is the Evanston learning Exchange Association, which, already with 30,000 members, has computerized operations. Thus far, about $12,000 million worth of commodities and services are bartered annually!

NUCLEAR POWER

TOKYO: Japan has overtaken Britain as the world's second largest nuclear power generator with a combined capacity of more than 10 million kilowatts. Four nuclear power plants have gone into test operations this year, on top of 14 plants on line by the end of last year, bringing the nation's aggregate capacity to 11,837,000 kilowatts. The United States is the largest power generating country in the world, with a capacity of more than 50 million kilowatts as of the end of 1977, followed by Britain with about 8.3 million kw. The total nuclear power generating capacity of the Soviet Union as of the end of 1977 is estimated at 82 million kw and that of West Germany at 7.3 million kw. The number of nuelear power plants on line by fiscal 1985 is expected to reach 29 with a combined capacity of 21,891,000 kw, against 33 million kw targeted by a Government Energy Research Council.

T. V. AND GUNS

A survey recently made by University of Pennsylvania researchers reaffirmed something already well known. Their report said "the lessons of TV violence induce a sense of danger, mistrust and pessimism in both adult and child viewers". Mayhem, it continued, characterized nine out of ten weekend morning shows, which are mostly children's programmes. And here is an interesting illustration of the impact TV shows have on adults, the report said, that 29 per cent of the viewers of police and crime shows bought a gun for "protection!"

LIFE-SPAN

TOKYO: Japan has become the nation with the longest life span in the world last year, passing the Scandinavian countries. According to a Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry report, the life span of male Japanese showed a steady increase to 72.69 years of age in 1977, topping the 72.12 figure for male Swedes. The longevity of female Japanese was also extended to 77.9. The report had indicated the promotion of Japanese longevity by 50 per cent in only one generation following World War II. The life span of female Japanese had extended beyond the age of 50 in 1946 and male Japanese in 1947. As longevity increased, the remainder of life for each age group has shown a corresponding rise (GLOBAL).

S. C. UNHAPPY

"We part with this case with an uneasy mind. There is a finding by the High Court that an influential candidate had interfered with officials to adulterate an electoral roll. We have vacated the finding but must warn that the civil services have a high commitment to the role of law, regardless of covert commands and indirect importunities of bosses inside and outside government. Lord Cheshan said in the House of Lords in 1958: "He is answerable to law alone and not to any public authority." A suppliant, obsequious, satellite public service-or one that responds to allurements. promotionol or pecuniary—is a danger to a democratic polity and to the supremacy of the role of law. The courage and probity of the hierarchical election machinery and its engineers, even when handsome temptation entices or huffy higher power browbeats, is the guarantee of electoral purity. To conclude, we are unhappy that such aspersions against public servants affect the integrity and morale of the services, but where the easy virtue of an election official or political power-wielder has distorted the assembly-line operations he will suffer one day. Be that as it may, we express no final opinion beyond what has already been said.

Sd/-.....J.
(V. R. Krishna Iyer)

Sd/-.....J.
(P. K. Goswami).

SANSKRIT WISDOM

By G. R. Josyer,
Member, Royal Society of Literature, Gt. Britain.

"Sri G. R. Josyer, who is a well-known scholar and writer, has given us this work a treasury of the great ideas in our Sanskrit literature. The author has given to us a garland of diverse flowers of ethical and spiritual wisdom. But he has not stated where he took each of the flowers. I shall quote a few of them."

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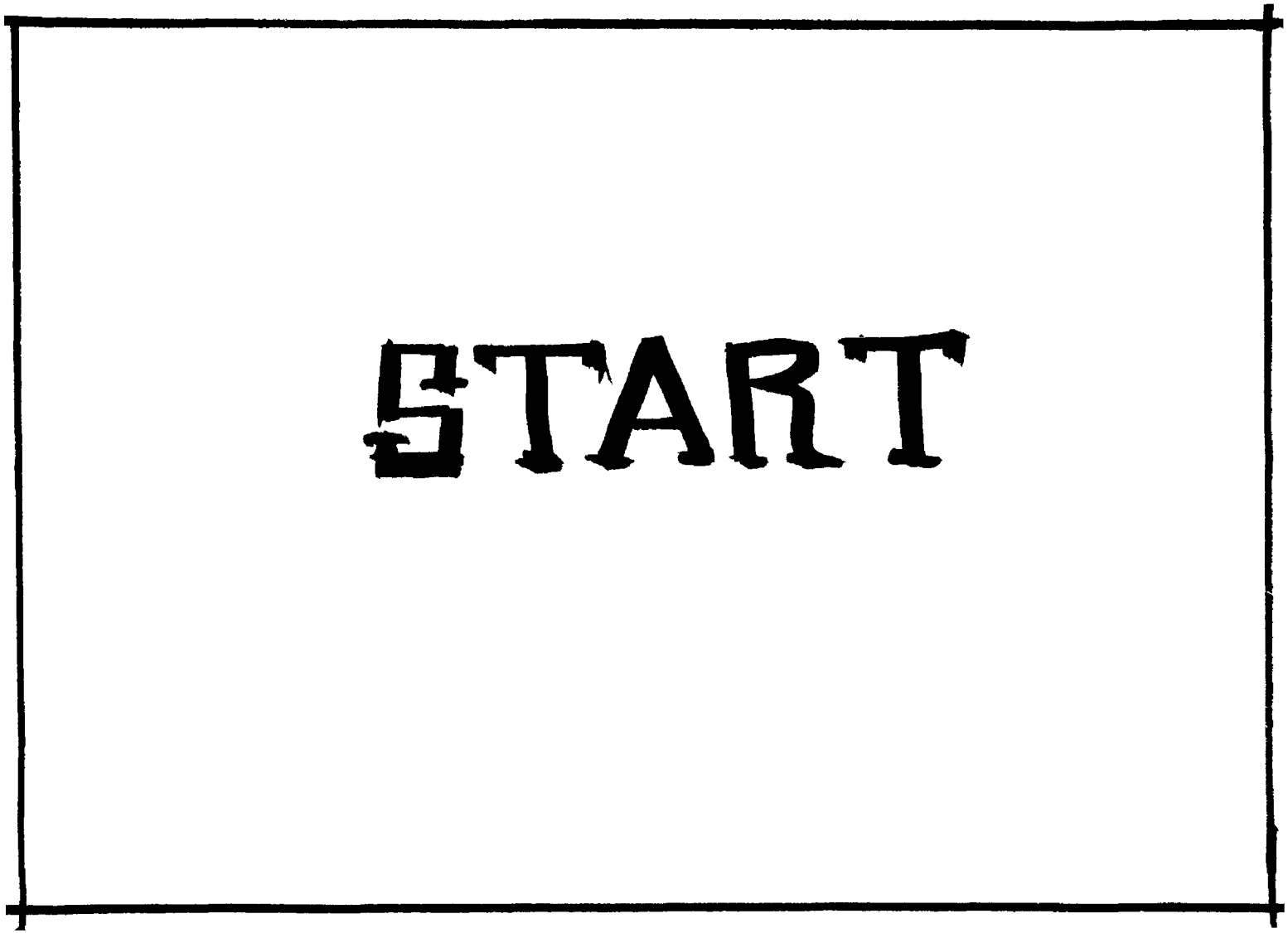
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